

Public Libraries

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Library Statistics Again

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Every profession and every movement has its own vital problem the identification of which is of great importance because after it has been isolated efforts can be concentrated upon its solution. If a truthful answer to the question as to what the most vital problem in the library movement today, really is, were to be given, it would be neither cataloging, nor method, nor building design—it would be “adequate financial support.”

For several years I have watched interestedly the issuance of library statistics in all sorts of forms because I believe, despite their being regarded as the *bête noir* of the movement by a number of librarians, that in a scientific or business-like presentation of them lies the solution of nearly all our difficulties, and in addition, the greatest aid towards making the library in fact, as well as in theory, an integral factor in our educational system.

It was my privilege to speak at length on the financial problems of libraries before the Keystone state library association, in 1911, my remarks on that occasion, expanded under the title of “A normal library budget,” being issued 18 months later by the American library association as Library handbook, No. 9. Two recent articles, one by George F. Winchester, librarian of the Paterson library, in the *Library Journal* of October, 1913, and the other the annual report of the Enoch Pratt free library for 1913, commented on in *The Dial* and elsewhere, are my justification for adding to what I then said.

That which it seems to me most im-

portant today to realize, is that the service that a library renders to the community in which it is situated is the most important thing; that whether it circulates 50,000,000 or 50,000 volumes a year is unimportant, except in so far as its circulation figure is proportioned to the people it is supposed to serve: and that whether it receives from the municipality, in which it is situated, \$500,000 or \$10,000 a year is also unimportant, except in so far as its receipts are proportioned to the number of people it is supposed to serve.

When, as in the recent Enoch Pratt library report, it is stated that that library cannot do as extensive work on \$86,500 a year as Philadelphia with an appropriation of \$234,100 a year, St. Louis with \$229,476, Boston with \$367,165, etc., its writer is merely putting in print a fact, which, though obvious is, without other facts being taken into consideration, no more derogatory to the support accorded the Baltimore institution than would be a statement that if the city fathers gave the library ten times what they do now its circulation would not equal that of Greater New York, which for the year given in the appendix was 14,419,101 volumes. The crux of the matter is—does Baltimore receive, or have to spend, as much money in proportion to the people it is supposed to serve as Philadelphia, St. Louis and Boston receive or have to spend? Taking the figures given in the Appendix F of the Pratt report, we find that in proportion to its population, though Baltimore is infinitely worse off than St. Louis and Boston, it is slightly better off than Philadelphia!—the annual per capita expenditure of the four libraries be-

ing Boston 59 cents, St. Louis 32 cents, Baltimore 16 cents, Philadelphia 15 cents. It is the per capita support that is the important thing, not only in the case of Baltimore, but in the cases of all libraries.

Appendix F to the Pratt report gives comparatively detailed figures of the resources, work and expenditures of libraries in 30 of the cities, which according to the 1910 census had a population of over 100,000 persons, and also of the libraries in Springfield and Somerville, Mass., which have populations of 88,926 and 77,236 respectively. It is worthy of close study by all librarians, though for the purpose of arriving at averages it is impossible not to regret that its compiler failed to include statistics for the 20 other cities which have populations of 100,000 or over.

To get any information of real value for presentation to boards of trustees or city councils out of this list, or in fact out of any list excepting the one prepared under the direction of Mr Winchester referred to above, several hours of figuring is necessary. A few things however can be extracted comparatively easily. First and foremost it is important to note that the libraries in 10 of the 32 cities analyzed (Boston, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Seattle, Oakland, Portland, Springfield and Somerville) each spend 50 cents or more a year per capita. It follows that pittances like those allowed by the respective municipalities of 17 cents per capita to the Chicago library, of 15 cents per capita to the Philadelphia library, and 16 cents per capita to the Baltimore library, are plainly anachronisms.

Secondly, a little figuring shows that the cost of library service is increasing, due probably to higher purchase prices of volumes loaned, to more scholarly services rendered and to larger stocks to be housed and cared for. For, as I pointed out in Library handbook, No. 9, the total expenditure per volume circulated by the 107 libraries circulating 100,000 volumes or over a year, in 1908, tabulated by Dr Bostwick in his "Amer-

ican public library" was 12.2 cents; while the total expenditure per volume circulated in the libraries tabulated in the Pratt report is 13.4 cents, an increase of 12 per cent. Salaries, the heaviest item of expenditure, have increased at a greater rate than the other items, more expert assistance from librarians by the public being constantly demanded. In Dr Bostwick's list salaries accounted for 50 per cent of the total expenditures; in the Pratt list they amount to 54 per cent. To put it into dollars and cents—libraries spend in salaries 7.2 cents for every volume circulated. But a good proportion of this 7.2 cents is for janitor and building staff service.

The average annual per capita expenditure of the libraries given in the Pratt report is 34 cents; that of the libraries in Dr Bostwick's list 29 cents. The average annual per capita circulation in the Pratt list is 2.5; in Dr Bostwick's list 2.4. Evidently a general advance all along the line and one greater even than indicated above. For while in the majority of cases in the Pratt list the library figures are for 1910, the same year as that for which population figures were obtainable, in Dr Bostwick's report, the library figures are for the most part for the years 1907 and 1908, while the population figures used in figuring averages were for 1900. As the population of the cities tabulated increased largely between 1900 and 1907 and 1908 it follows that the actual per capita circulation and expenditures were probably 10 per cent lower than those given above.

If the backward cities are to be helped the necessity of adopting the recommendation of Mr Winchester, that the A. L. A. issue annually a handbook of library statistics, is I think becoming every day more apparent. He suggested that libraries be divided into classes according to the population of the cities in which they are located.

1	Cities	of 10,000	to 75,000	population
2	"	" 75,000	" 300,000	"
3	"	" 300,000	" 600,000	"
4	"	" 600,000	and over	"

I think it would be better if the first class were divided into two—say one class containing cities of 10,000 to 30,000 the other containing cities of 30,000 to 75,000. Seven classes as given in the U. S. census abstract (Table 23, page 60) would probably be still better. Some of the statistics should be given in ordinary figures, others in per capita shape, some possibly in both. Is it not obvious that figures in a table something like the following would be more readily understood by, and effective with, the man in the street, on whom, after all, whether he be a councilman or trustee, we depend for support, than the bewildering tables printed heretofore? I take three libraries from the Pratt list, (some items cannot be filled in as details are not given) and add the James V. Brown library for the sake of a complete example.

The separation in the past of the binding expenditures from the expenditures for books and magazines has been, I think, a great mistake. Whether a library rebinds an old book or purchases a new one is decided, in the majority of cases, by comparative cost: whether a library buys old magazines in bound form, or in unbound form with the intention of binding them, is also generally a matter of comparative cost: and the binding of current magazines is obviously only an incident in the method adopted to prevent the delay that would be entailed should libraries wait until the publishers bind the magazines and then buy from them in that form. The best charges for the expenditures, if separated at all, would probably be "Books and book binding"—and "Magazines and magazine binding." If extreme accuracy were

	General statistics								Itemized expenditures				
	Population	Volumes in library		Volumes loaned for home use		Borrowers cards in force		Expenditures		Per cent for books, magazines and binding.	Per cent for salaries.	Per cent for bldg. charges—light, ht., jan. serv., etc.	Per cent for other items.
		Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita				
Baltimore	558,485	307,540	.5	621,924	1.1	40,604	.07	\$ 93,945	\$.16				
Boston	670,585	1,049,011	1.5	1,744,878	2.6	92,599	.13	398,417	.59				
Somerville	77,236	107,702	1.3	432,436	5.5	33,000	.42	39,782	.51				
J. V. Brown library.	31,860	22,900	.6	100,813	3.1	7,890	.21	9,935	.31	26	45	17	12

Unless more than 10 per cent of a library's income is received from sources other than city or state it is hardly worth while noting the fact—in the comparatively few cases in which such is the case the exceptions could be brought out in notes. Records of the "turn over" circulation are of more than doubtful value. A library of 100,000 volumes in a town of 30,000 inhabitants would be able to render better service to its clientele than one of 25,000 volumes: but its "turn over" would probably be only a little over one-fourth that of the latter.

desired a third heading, "Magazines not for permanent use" could be added. This would cover magazines purchased for circulation only.

The lumping of building charges, upkeep, janitor service, and heating and lighting expenses would bring together the bulk of what are incontestably "fixed charges," and relieve the salary item of 10 per cent to 20 per cent of that usually charged against it.

As there are only 229 cities in the United States with populations of 25,000 and over, it would not be a very dif-

difficult task for the A. L. A. to prepare an analytical list of the free public circulating libraries in those cities. Few libraries would, I believe, delay in sending in the figures requested more than a week or so. Later if the list proved as valuable as many librarians expect it would, libraries in the smaller towns (there are only 372 with populations of between 10,000 and 25,000) could be taken up and, if they so deserved, libraries in universities and colleges also.

A New Idea in Library Work

Everywhere the public library is recognized to be an influence toward education of all who come within the radius of its workings. But it seems as if there might be one phase of library work which might be exalted—and enlarged—that part of the work which deals directly with helping students and earnest readers. Of all the people who draw books from the public libraries, or carry on any research within the buildings, the great majority have never had any school training above the eighth grade.

But a minority of the readers in the free libraries are carrying on a course of study under the direction of high school or college instructors.

Would it not be practicable for the larger libraries to have an assistant whose business it was not only to aid readers during regular periods of the day, but also to conduct at stated times a regular lecture-recital with illustrations? Nearly every large library has an assembly hall where such programs could be carried out. Have tickets of admission—but the tickets could be free *for the asking*. How would such lecture-recitals be conducted?

This season, many are interested in reading about Rabindrahnath Tagore. Literature could be cited and extracts quoted from works already on the shelves of the library. A brief sketch about the Indian poet—a little about the Nobel prize and who were some of the others who were given that prize. Certain books contain certain poems by those

writers, and some poems might be quoted. Photographs from the fine arts department could be on exhibition upon the subject of India.

At another time, many of the readers are making inquiries for material upon the subject of "Immigration" or the "Composite American." A series of lecture-recitals would open the eyes of readers to the great amount of fascinating literature and music which would be helpful. After a suggestive discourse upon the Hungarians and the door is opened to the line of books published upon Hungary, and certain phases of the subject as brought out in one book and a different light thrown from another book—could it be possible that any earnest seeker after information could again call the people from that land—"Wops"?

We would hear less of disrespectful allusions to the Hebrew people if interested readers could be more clearly directed to the literature pertaining to the history of the Jewish people. It would be a little better understood why the Jewish boys and girls call for more of the library books, *not fiction*, than all other young readers.

With the same tact and wisdom that a librarian selects his assistant at the "change" desk, so must he use his judgment in appointing the one who is to bring the readers into more intimate acquaintance with the books in the library.

The *personality* of such a helper would be the first requisite, together with training.

But one librarian says: "The trouble is that people of the breadth of reading, vivacity and pedagogical ability to do this work acceptably are scarce." Perhaps so, in the same ratio that the employees in factories and offices who are working to meet all requirements and do a little more *with interest*, are few.

Would it not be practicable in the library training schools to have some such idea in mind and gradually work toward it, when some likely student is taking the course?

Sometimes, already on the force of a library staff, there is one who is more

apt in meeting and helping readers;—instead of “squelching” native ability in that direction, because of the jealousy which has grown so apparent in a superior assistant—let such a helpful assistant be encouraged, and aided wherever she may be lacking and gradually develop her superior qualities.

With no reflection upon any library in particular, it is the experience of many readers that the atmosphere among the assistants of the average free library is of a forbidding type. Many library helpers seem to be so afraid that they will give an inquirer one word too many in extending information.

Perhaps the writer erred in the other direction; but in her experience in library work she was never so happy as at the time when an earnest reader made inquiries, and an opportunity presented itself to gather together all the literature upon a specified subject which might be found in indirect ways—hidden chapters of books with irrelevant titles, etc. Certain experience in library work in one of the largest libraries in this country, together with two seasons of lecture-recital programs have brought to vision the possibility of broadening the influence of the free library as an educational center—in all branches.

The way in which it is done will be half the secret of the success of such a project.

EX-LIBRARIAN.

Activity is God's medicine; the highest genius is willingness and ability to do hard work. Any other conception of genius is dangerous.

God educates men by casting them upon their own resources. Man learns to swim by being tossed into life's maelstrom and left to make his way ashore. No youth can learn to sail his life-craft in a lake sequestered and sheltered from all storms, where other vessels never come. Skill comes through sailing one's craft amidst rocks and bars and opposing fleets, amidst storms and whirls and counter-currents. Responsibility alone drives man to toil and brings out his best gifts.—Newell Dwight Hillis.

Library Heresies*

Sarah B. Askew, organizer New Jersey library commission

I might declare and expound the heresy that every substitute for the accession book is more trouble than the accession book but that has been well done. I might prove to you the soundness of the so-called heretical doctrine that book numbers are no more use on non-fiction than they are on fiction. This phrase is a talisman that always brings three or four arguments to my mind.

First—Book numbers are the survival of the antiquated closed shelf days. (Is this a heresy within a heresy?)

Secondly—It is a translation of the author's name into numbers. (How do I know? Why, Cutter said so.) Why translate the name into numbers rather than into Greek? Greek is much more erudite and would give us a greater reputation for learning.

Thirdly—Fiction is the larger class and that which works well in fiction will work just as well in the smaller classes that have already a number on them.

Fourthly—If we don't have numbers the people shelving the books and filing the cards will get some ideas of the authors we have in the library which most of them haven't now.

I know that such an experienced audience will not wish me to discuss such a minor heresy as that of filing Clarke with an “e” right in with the more respectable Clarks' without an “e” instead of after. N. B. What I said about Clarks' applies also to Greene's—Browne's—Mac's and the entire “sui generis.” This is said for the benefit of anyone that is really interested in that.

As to the heresy of leaving Scott, Dickens, Thackeray and Trollope without a first name and leaving the “J” out of Henry J. Van Dyke, and the “E” of Amelia E. Barr and the “T” off of Toomy Woodrow Wilson's name, well those things come too close to our old

*Read before New York State library association, Lake George, September 26, 1913.

sacred traditions to be discussed other than in the privacy of a tête-à-tête.

I would like to tell you of a pet heresy of mine that the date on the fiction card is no use and often makes trouble, viz.:—when the woman who has read everything up to 1905 comes in. But it seems cowardly to do that here where the five hundred who would protect that "date" with their lives can not get at me. I will say, however, that I *can prove it*. As to the use of the simplest form of names and the common or garden term for a subject instead of the scientific one, this is no time to discuss that, but, I will quote the following from the original book of Noah, "and Noah took his wife one side and said unto her, you know the purpose for which I've built this ark is to keep two of each of these prehistoric animals from drowning, as I understand from the weather bureau an awful storm is due, but I have got a big problem to solve. Now you might think the only thing to do was to just put them in the ark, but no, I've got to do something more than that, because suppose I should die, no one knows all these animals but myself, and then think what confusion there would be. Shem's wife would be liable to try to feed her baby on milk from the giraffe, and think what the effect would be on its after life, so far as its outlook on the world is concerned. No, I must catalog and classify them and give them subject headings, and yet get them in before the rain begins. Now I cannot find the scientific names for all these animals without going to Hebron and my catalog has got to be according to rules—so the Jebusites won't make fun of it." He entered "goose" under goose and not under "Anatidae Anserinae" with a reference from goose and I am sure he did not stop to make a reference from Anatidae Anserinae, because Madam Noah knew Japheth's wife when she wanted to find out whether a goose should be broiled or baked was going to look under goose, and not care a glass bead for Anatidae, and that it would not only take Noah's much needed time now to enter the goose

under full name, but would hinder dinner hereafter. Japheth's wife being such a woman as I believe we would call "from Missouri" in these later days, and would certainly need to be shown that Anatidae Anserinae was indeed a plain, common or garden goose, before she would accept the advice as to the broiling or baking of it.

I think, however, Noah must have had trouble finding the right entry for pterodactyls and megalosaurus and such like, and just didn't take them in rather than have his catalog wrong and that is why they are not saved to us. Take warning, Oh! librarians, and listen to another heresy. It is better to have a book in the library classified and cataloged as best you can but *not* according to Cutter and Dewey than to refuse to buy it because you know you cannot catalog and classify it to meet Olympian criticism.

I am not going to talk about these things here but if anyone wishes to confer with me on these subjects I will be glad to meet them on the front piazza on any warm day or by the open fire in the semi-circle on any cold day before nine o'clock tomorrow morning and lay before them in full my arguments and proofs as to the soundness of these age-old and widely spread heresies, I will simply enumerate some other heresies so that if there be even one here interested they can consult me there about these also.

I verily believe that the catalog is for the public and not for the pleasure of the cataloger, nor was it invented to show what a fine cataloger she is, nor do I believe that its chief end is to show the librarian that she once bought a copy of "Clean Peter of Grubbylea" or "Squirrel Nutkin" as the case may be that was published in London and had 2p plus 11pp, plus 113 pp, so that should she ever replace it and *that* bookseller send her one published in New York, 1p plus 14pp, plus 112pp, she may indignantly throw it back on the said bookseller's hands and demand London, 2p plus 11pp, plus 113 pp, nor do I believe that the public cares where "Squirrel Nutkin" was printed nor even "Indiscreet letters from Pekin," nor

how many pages plus how many pages plus how many pages it has, so there isn't a bit of need of putting *that* on the card so far as the public is concerned. I do not believe (although I speak without consulting Mr Putnam) that the Library of Congress cares whether the cards in your catalog as written or typed by you correspond with those the said L. C. sells to you but if you prove this truly to be a heresy by word from Mr Putnam, I even then do not believe the Library of Congress cares to such an extent that they will refuse to sell cards to you. Why worry then?

It is my solemn belief, that one reason why the public reads more fiction than non-fiction is because the librarian does also, and so knows more about fiction and usually recommends it when asked for a good book.

I do not believe in the ribbon arrangement of fiction because I believe that the person looking for the "History of Magna Charta" is much more apt to take "Laddie" when she glimpses it in that ribbon between 341 and 342, than she would be apt to take the "American City," when she is looking for the "Rosary." However, meet me on the porch.

Speaking of porches, when I approached the gentleman, who had the honor to be my first employer, all trembling with the zest and ardor of two weeks service in the work and asked to be allowed to go to my first conference, after giving me leave to go he said to me, "Now you know the meetings are not the main things, the porch parties, the talks along the paths are where you get the ideas." I believed him and wrote that down as tenet 1001 of the Library Confession of Faith. Accordingly, when I arrived at the conference I shunned the meetings and dogged the footsteps of the porch parties. At last I stalked a group talking absordedly. I approached them with bated breath and creaking shoes, my hand ready for the hand clasp that I knew was coming. Alas! It did not. It must have been that they saw that pleated skirt of mine when gores were the fashion. Not knowing what

else to do with that outstretched hand I just straightened my hair, it was already unusually smooth because that straightening process had become a custom with me that day. I will just lean here, thought I to myself, and gather the pearls of wisdom as they fall. Pearl No. 1 from a plump, dignified-looking woman—"I declare it seems to me that the women who come to the convention get dowdier every year." Pearl No. 2 from a thin, scholarly-looking gentleman—"Yes, the A. L. A. isn't what it used to be, so many assistants belong now that it is getting too crowded for comfort; everywhere you go you seem to bump up against them. I think I shall really stop coming myself." Pearl No. 3 from a bored-looking stout gentleman—"Yes, I got to talking with a tolerably nice looking young woman last night and asked where her library was and she said she was *only* cutting leaves of books in a large library so of course we had nothing in common." (Mercy! It was the bland gentleman who had snubbed me; I hadn't recognized him before.)*

I wandered far and wide, climbing the steps from the Cave of the Winds, and walking the paths of Goat Island looking for those who would teach me wisdom by the wayside or woodland paths. I have walked the woodland paths for many conferences and talked on many porches, starlit, moonlit and rainswept, on many subjects from moons to monkeys, but never have I seen porch parties scattering pearls for newcomers, sowing seeds in fallow ground unless held up at the point of a notebook and the demand made of them to hand over ideas. Even then somehow I have suspected the immortal so forced to surrender ideas of saying in the bedroom, "Isn't so and so a bore; she always insists on talking

*Note:—The author begs to state that it will be useless to try to trace the actors in the porch drama as she has changed their physical characteristics somewhat so that they may be unrecognizable. Anyway, in the nine intervening years the plump lady may have become thin, the thin man may have taken on fat, the bland man may have become soured on the world, and the dignified lady learned to skip.

work and nothing but work." Therefore, do I say that I believe that nearly as much can be learned from the sessions of any library conference as can be learned from the porch parties and therefore do I believe that every librarian should attend at least one a day, and I do verily believe that that is what her board approves, duly and humbly acknowledging that porch parties teach more astronomy, are a better fresh air cure, and are a better education for social duties, all of which are of prime importance to every librarian. But, oh, you confirmed Conference goer! What can you learn of such matters when this is your first conference and there are none to walk there with you, and if the Olympians hold their porch parties in exclusive corners and circulate their pearls among themselves?

This leads up to the arch heresy that librarians are the best fitted persons to undertake every job in the town, and that sometimes in doing so they even neglect the job they are hired to do, which is to furnish the people of their community with books and answer questions and do research work. Remember! Oh remember, that when you rush into playgrounds, civic work, women's clubs, teaching history to the schools, chair caning to the boys, sewing to the girls, manners to the tramps, politics to the politician, and civics to the town council, some day, the goblin of politics is going to "git you if you don't watch out," and prove you have forgotten that the man who butts in is cut down in his prime. Remember also that your successor may wonder why the books aren't in better order and if she is really snoop, why that store room is in such a dreadful muss and why you didn't do some library work while you were resting from other more important tasks, and, alas, she doesn't always keep her wonder to herself, for successors are not like Caleb, without guile!

To rush from these really big things to minor considerations, with fear and trembling, I announce my belief that if the free public library is the highest ef-

fort of democracy to crown itself, democracy doesn't know it. Why do I believe that? Well, because the ministers haven't stopped saying that the meeting to form a Y. W. C. A. has degenerated into a library meeting; the men haven't stopped saying, "Naw, I don't know where the library is, that's a woman's affair"; the schoolmen haven't stopped saying, "The library is usurping the place properly belonging to the school." The laity still mix the American library association with the American laundry association; and while we librarians confer on Uplift, many folks go on reading nothing but the yellow journals and the Uplift doesn't always come off.

I do not believe that a crown is a pleasant thing to liken a library to anyway, even kings don't wear crowns around except on state occasions. They must be hot in the summer and cold in the winter, heavy on the head at all times, hard to keep on straight and mighty uncomfortable when they get over the ear. No doubt that is why Democracy doesn't more appreciate our efforts to uplift it to the crowning point. The library as a means to an end always appeals more to the people than the library presented as an end in itself. Therefore, I believe as we are compelled to have some flowery phrase on tap for use in library oratory, it would be better to formulate one more on this order. "The library is a tool ready to the hand of Democracy, to be used in carrying on its work," and give up trying to force this crown business on unwilling minds. Even the minister might like a tool to carry on his work, the school men might like a tool to put the school in a higher place, we might possibly convince the men that a tool would be useful in carrying on men's affairs, and the laity might consider an association of those that furnished them with really useful tools for their work just as important as an association of those that washed their clothes for them.

Which reminds me to declare that I verily believe that it is not the duty of the librarian to smile all the time and

that the public may get tired of a smile sometimes. Don't let's smile unless we feel like smiling, because while a genuine smile is very present help in the time of need, the forced smile is an abomination unto the public. Let me parenthesize, however, please let's feel like smiling as often as we can, given our disposition.

Which brings me to article number 1112 of my heresy. It is no one's duty to change their disposition or their habits to suit their work. I wonder why we try another disposition cut and dried years ago to fit all librarians because it happened to belong to some librarian whom we all loved and respected. Let's try our own disposition and who knows but that some generation from now because of our success, *that* will be the approved Procrustean bed of library dispositions on which every striver will feel that she has to model herself. If we find we have got to change our personality to fit our work, don't let's do it. Let's change our work.

I do verily believe that G. B. McCutcheon has his place in the library just as much as G. Chesterton. Everyone has to go through certain phases. You can't expect the girl or boy who has read the *Fireside Companion*, or nothing at all, to welcome at once William Locke, DeMorgan and Benson with open arms. They have to work up through the different phases. We all know how our artistic taste evolved first from no adornment through all the stages of hideously carved and abominably upholstered black walnut to the stage where the cook could never find her gridiron because resplendent in gilt it served for a music rack up to the so-called mission furniture and "Art nouveau" period. Just so the mental taste is developed. Have patience with the library gilded clothespins and stuffed birds and those who like them, and watch only that they evolve.

I do verily believe that the dowdy woman at the desk asking for "a sweet love story" like *St. Elmo*, isn't just always a dowdy woman asking for a silly book. She is sometimes a worker in a box factory, where she makes boxes for

a living. That's a different matter, and there is where "Beverly of Graustark" comes in. If McCutcheon refreshes her mind and starts her out a better box maker the next morning, that's the book that belongs to her.

I verily believe that even if pigs is pigs, farmers isn't farmers always, just as janitors isn't janitors. I believe that this is just as true as that all Jones' don't look alike. Of course, as Alice says, they all (Jones') have eyes on each side of their nose, just so do farmers have some broad characteristic in common, but we must go further even among farmers and study the individual farming mind just as we do the individual janitorial mind so that the companion question in the library examination to "What book would you give a janitor who is interested in birds," may be "What book would you give a farmer who likes Persian rugs?" Further—I do not believe the "pronouncement" that we must bring to every man, woman and child the book belonging to him means always to give him a book on his trade. It's a great thing to help a farmer to a book that will make him grow two blades of grass where one grew; it's a great thing to give a house painter a book that will help him to do artistic work, but it is a higher thing to go beyond that and give to him the book that will teach him the spirit of citizenship, that will show the farmer that the high cost of living is up to him, also, and that he has no right to refuse to grow the two blades of grass because a large crop would bring down the prices. If some librarian had been near Abraham Lincoln and had concluded that he should have a book on fence building because he split rails, and that that was the book that belonged to him, we might have lacked the inspiration of his example today and many a speech by many a librarian would have been sadly curtailed.

I do not believe with that Western library commission that the chief things necessary to success in library work are a college education and a transcendental attitude of mind. I believe the first

requisite is gumption and the second is like thereunto, and as for the rest of the qualifications, I think those specified by one of the board of trustees in a letter to us would have resulted in a first-rate librarian if all of them could have been found united in the same person, therefore, I append his specifications to my roll of heresies.

A good talker on any subject whether she knows it or not.

Cheerful, and a sense of humor.

A good disposition but not an easy mark.

A good mixer with all kinds of people.

Tolerably good looking, but not too good looking.

Don't mind the weather or any discomfort.

A good sport.

Diplomatic.

Must not wear too many rats.

Well educated if possible but must seem so at any rate.

Not pernickety.

No chip on her shoulder.

A hard worker.

Women as Employées *

We need principles applied which will remove from women employées, from kitchen to reference room, the mildew that blights them everywhere—the assurance that, while longevity and pressure from below may push them up to mediocre position and pay, no effort or excellence of their own undistinguished by great native ability (or charm) can procure for them the reward of such advance as shall give them *free time* for free development. Employers tell me that youths show more ambition than girls. They earn and demand advancement. If you refuse it, they leave you or get such a grouch that you dismiss them. They aspire to fill your shoes. But girls give you faithful unaspiring service, it seems. They are content to plod. When I try prodding the women, they say, "What's the use?" Cooks say the same. My scheme looks to reward, in money, in honor, in free time, for achievement—small reward in each, to be sure, but both women and librarians deal in small things.

*Extract from address of Louise Connolly at meeting of Long Island library club.

Enlightened Public Library Trustees

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Perhaps you can find a corner for the following in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, where it may be useful. It seems to me to illustrate the sort of hopeless misconception of a library's purpose, on the part of so many library authorities (trustees and "city fathers"), against which devoted, earnest and energetic librarians have to vainly struggle.

As an illustration of "How not to do it," the following extracts from a public statement issued on March 20 by the Library commission of the Long Beach (Cal.) public library are at once melancholy and joyous. It should be premised that the librarian of the Long Beach library, Miss Victoria Ellis, recently resigned after 10 years of effective service, as a result of the activities of the newly appointed library commission (or board of trustees), which seems to have carried on its dealings with the librarian almost exclusively by correspondence. These letters from the librarian to the board, prior to her resignation, and the board's comments thereon, illuminate the situation:

Jan. 27, 1914.

To the Honorable Library Commission of the City of Long Beach,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Miss Harriet L. Keeler, of Cleveland, Ohio, is here for the winter and is rewriting a couple of her publications on wild flowers. It is necessary in connection with her work for her to consult the books listed below, which I recommend purchased and added to our collection.

Respectfully yours,

VICTORIA ELLIS.

Matthews, F. S. Field book of American wild flowers. Putnam\$1.75
Reed, C. A. Wild flowers, east of the Rockies. Doubleday\$2.50

These two books having been requested for a special purpose, the Commission considered that it would not be justified in expending the funds of the library to assist the author in her work. This being purely a commercial transaction.

January 31, 1914.

To the Library Commission,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The books listed below are requested for use in connection with the University Ex-

tension lectures on the Southwest, given by Prof. Bolton. I would suggest that these books could be procured most readily at book shop, Los Angeles.

Very truly yours,

VICTORIA ELLIS.

[A list of 13 titles follows, including Hamilton's Colonization of the South; Help's Life of Cortes; Lea's History of the inquisition; McNutt's Cortes and the conquest of Mexico; Morris' History of colonization; Payne's History of America; Roscher's Spanish colonial system; Humboldt's Political essay on New Spain. Prices ranging from 50c. to \$10.]

Although the above books might be desirable, it was considered by the Commission that as the interest in said books was temporary and transitory that it would not be advisable to purchase the same, the library being deficient in works of history that would be in constant and general demand.

CORRESPONDENT.

Some Questions for Librarians

Do you have difficulty in getting and keeping good stenographers? Would you find it cheaper to buy a dictating machine and employ a lower-salaried typist? Would the results be more satisfactory?

Do you lose time and temper in sharpening lead pencils with a knife? Or do you waste pencils and patience with a pencil sharpener which is worse than the old-fashioned method? Do you want to see some of the good pencil sharpeners, and compare them with the old way?

Do you moisten your envelopes by the primitive method which originated when the first envelope was made? Would it pay you to invest half a dollar, or a whole one, in a simple device which will moisten them for you?

Would it pay you to buy an adding machine? If so, what machine would you prefer?

Do you want a satisfactory follow-up system for your book order records or for the periodical check list? Do you want to know what methods some other libraries are following?

These, and a great many similar questions, you can answer at the exhibit of labor saving devices at the coming con-

ference. To the many librarians who have helped with suggestions and information the committee are grateful and they hope the exhibit will furnish many helpful suggestions to all who attend the conference. Full information concerning the hours open and other details, including a list of the devices included in the exhibit, will be given in a printed catalog which may be obtained on registration at headquarters.

C. SEYMOUR THOMPSON.

The Public library, Washington, D. C.

A Different Opinion

To the Editor:

I notice that I am quoted by a correspondent in your April number as naming "Sorosis" as the first woman's club in the United States. I have never made this statement, as I know it to be untrue.

I also notice in the same number a reference to the deferred subscription plan to periodicals, which one of the correspondents says might be a good way by which a small library could save money. My personal experience with this method leads me to abhor it as a plague. I still lack two numbers of three magazines of the past year, which the one in charge of the scheme, Mr. Nelson Doubleday, of Locust Valley, N. Y., cannot secure for me. The publishers, who were supposed to have returned to them a sufficient number for issuance through this method, have exhausted their supply. You can readily see what kind of a situation it would place libraries in that wished to form complete files!

Very truly yours,

LUTIE E. STEARNS.

Wisconsin Free library commission,
April 3, 1914.

* * *

I am glad to hear that Miss Stearns does not hold that the first place in point of age belongs to Sorosis instead of the Minerva (Ind.) club. The statement which was used in the communication to PUBLIC LIBRARIES for April, was found in the *Green Bay Gazette* of November 26, 1913, which contains in detail the

address which Miss Stearns delivered before the Woman's club with the subject, "Is it worth while?" Believing the report accurate, those of us who are interested in justice being done to Madam Runcie, could not let the statement go without correction. I am glad to learn that the report was faulty, and that Miss Stearns recognizes the claim of the New Harmony club.

MRS. WINIFRED A. COOK.
St. Joseph, Mo.

Donations Wanted

The Chinese national party, headed by Dr Sun Yet Sen, has a library at 265 West Twenty-second street, Chicago, in which there are more than 1,500 volumes on political science, and a number on other subjects. This library would appreciate donations of books on all subjects, particularly those from public libraries which have outlived their usefulness in that particular quarter.

My Lady of the Library*

A wise man of the far-off past,
Whose thoughts roamed fast and free
and far,
Centered his gaze from first to last
Upon a bright responsive star.
Not so do I,—my genius cries,
A surer, warmer light to see,
And finds it in her earnest eyes,—
My Lady of the Library.

Among the books her glowing face
Seems the setting it requires;
Among the master-minds her place
Is fixed to kindle smouldering fires.
The very books there know her touch,
And wake to life for such as she.
They, too, will miss her overmuch—
My Lady of the Library.

Ah, Lady of the Library,—
You do not know, you never may,—
What inspirations come to me
Because your steps have crossed my way.
God made but one of you. Resign
Just when you choose, you still must be
The only one I claim as mine,—
My Lady of the Library.

*This poem was addressed to the Reference librarian of the Public library of St. Paul, Minn., and is published here without the knowledge of either the author or the subject.

Every Borrower His Own Library Assistant

The open shelf system, under which borrowers in public libraries are allowed to go to the shelves and select their own books, is now an established fact in most of our large libraries and in nearly all of the small ones, but the first instance where borrowers are utilized at the desk in charging and discharging their own books is a plan recently tried by the St. Louis public library at several of its smaller stations.

This "self-charging system," as it is called, has so far been used only in stations where a restricted class of persons have access to the book shelves. The book collections here number not more than 300 volumes. The borrower charges the book to himself, according to directions which are conspicuously posted over the shelves. His card, after fastening to it with a rubber band the card taken from the book, is dropped through a slot; and the date on which the book will be due is stamped in it with a rubber stamp that hangs by a cord near at hand. Returned books are slid into a box through a slit; and fines are placed in an envelope and dropped into the same slot. Cards for home use may also be obtained by the same method.

An assistant visits the self-charging center to record the issue and check off the returned books, and to perform other necessary offices in connection with the system.

Obviously such a system as this can never be used except in a small station where the users are all trustworthy. So far as the St. Louis public library has suffered no loss from the use of the plan.

A Generous Allowance

A curious library situation is that of the Ohio state library, where there is \$18,880 appropriated for what is termed "personal service," that is, salaries, and \$1,940 for maintenance. It would seem as if \$18,000 is a pretty large sum in salaries to take care of so small an appropriation for development.

Mural Decorations in Library of Congress

The romance or evolution of the book is a wonderful study. The beginning and perhaps the end of the romance is within our power to view—though a higher form of the book may in later centuries develop.

John W. Alexanders' important series of mural decorations in the Library of Congress inspire one to follow even more closely than pictorial art can depict, the evolution of the book. His pictures present the six stages of the development of the book.

1) **The cairn**—The earliest form of record. A company of primitive men, clad in skins, are raising a heap of stones on the seashore, in commemoration of some event, or in memory of some important hero, such as those cairns made by early inhabitants of the British Isles. The cairn was usually a rounded or conical heap of stones, and is sometimes also called a barrow, or tumulus. European barrows forming the burial places of prehistoric peoples are distinguished as long and round. Each variety possesses a characteristic mode of burial and the crania found in long barrows are characteristically oval, those found in round barrows are a flat oval, round and broader, indicating that the barrows were built by different races. The cairn is the earliest form of records.

2) **Oral tradition**—The next step in recording events. An Arab story-teller relating his marvelous tales to a circle of seated Arabs. This oral delivery was the relating of information, opinions, doctrines, practices, rites and customs, by father to son, by forefathers to descendants, by ancestors to posterity.

3) **Egyptian hieroglyphics**—An Egyptian workman cutting an inscription over the portal of a temple. Here we find the beginning of the written word—the oral word put into a more lasting form, and yet how crude must have been this chirography of our forefathers.

4) **Picture writing**—A young American Indian depicting a story of his tribe upon a deer skin. The birth of art was necessary in the evolution of the book.

5) **The manuscript book**—Interior of a monastery; a monk illuminating the pages of a folio-book. A long step between pictorial writing and the book as the old monks first gave it to us—done on real parchment, lettered and colored with the goose-quill, which even today has not had a better substitute for execution of hand-lettering.

6) **The printing press**—The last of the series, showing Gutenberg, the inventor of printing, in his office; the master with his assistant beside him, examining a proof-sheet, and discussing the principle of the great invention. To the right is an apprentice swaying upon the handlebar of the crude press. There is still a picture to be added—the modern giant—the cylinder press automatically fed, run by electricity, printing twenty-four, thirty-two, or sixty-four pages of a book at one impression. And even yet a greater picture—this same huge machine to which is attached a folder and binder and in which blank paper in rolls weighing hundreds of pounds is fed at one end and delivered at the other end as completed magazines or books ready to put on sale at the book stands.

Great is the evolution of the book—its history would make a marvelous romance. But the mechanical making is almost insignificant when we read the story of the making of the contents, for this story would be the evolution of humanity.—*Crafters' Budget*.

A Wise Conclusion

The head of an important department of one of the largest libraries who felt it economical to discontinue her subscription and use the department copy of PUBLIC LIBRARIES writes:

I find I just can't get along without my own personal copy of "PUBLIC LIBRARIES," so will you please take this backslider on again? I can never get hold of it just when I want it because someone else has it at the moment. And I like to feel I can pick it up at any time without waiting for someone else or interfering with her turn.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

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M. E. AHERN - - - - Editor

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

A. L. A. meeting at Washington—Again within the memory of the majority of librarians, the A. L. A. will meet with the sad cloud of war over the gathering. Washington, as the capitol of the United States, will be more affected by the situation, perhaps, than anywhere else outside of the field of disturbance. While this may be so, "the duty of the day" with librarians will not be abandoned and the zeal for more light and better service will be met with the best preparation that can be made by the program committee. The *A. L. A. Bulletin* for May contains the full program, which shows ample room for the highest expectation of an unusually good meeting.

Books by parcel post—Under the ruling of the Postmaster-general, books were admitted to parcel post transportation on March 16. As yet, there has not been any especially increased use made of it, though here and there libraries are

taking advantage of it. The public libraries of Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis have taken advantage of it to increase their already wide service and the Virginia state library is preparing to increase the work of their traveling library system throughout Virginia. Much has been said in the last several years about the great need of this service and doubtless it will grow in favor as time passes.

A word in season—The report of the address (See page 214) of Miss Connolly of Newark, at the March meeting of the Long Island library club, gives some interesting "food for thought" to those in charge of library work. The library assistant who reported in *Library Journal* for March on the spirit of a library where such words as Miss Connelly's might do good, might point out the opportunity for reform in ways and means of service offered by the address of Miss Connelly.

A notable occasion—The celebration of the completion of 25 years of service for the three members of the staff of the New York state library, as recounted in another column, was a fitting recognition of faithful work that does not always fall to the lot of those most concerned. That it did so in this particular instance, will give the greatest satisfaction to those who have had the good fortune to be related to the principals in the event, whether as students, co-workers, or professional friends. In naming those who have made distinct contribution to the development of library work, in faithfulness, in thoroughness, in modesty, in loyalty to the institution and to the work in hand, the names of these three individuals will be the first to occur to any one familiar with the situation.

It gives one a thrill of intense satis-

faction to see merit of such a high yet modest kind recognized in such a way. It is not often that such good fortune befalls those similarly situated, so that it is a cause for rejoicing that for once, at least, appreciation was given where appreciation was so fully deserved.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES joins at this late date with those who acknowledged their indebtedness to the principals in the affair and in wishing for each of them a future full of joy and peace and satisfaction.

Money's worth—An interesting and rather unique calculation is that found in a recent report of the Public library of Nashville, Tenn., where the statement is made that for an appropriation by the city of \$22,000 the library made a return to the city of \$167,117 worth of reading matter. This estimate was based on the circulation of the library, which was 167,117 volumes estimated to be worth one dollar each.

Whatever may be thought of the line of reasoning which gives the figures quoted, it must still be admitted that a circulation of 167,117 volumes of good literature throughout a city the size of Nashville means increased intelligence among its citizens.

In addition to this expenditure, much might be said of the investment of personality and professional interest on the part of the administrators of the library, a service and a contribution which cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents.

No attack intended—The Assistant-secretary of the Pennsylvania library commission sees in the editorial in March **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** on the lack of appreciation of librarians in their public service on the part of boards of library trustees, "an attack on the work of the Pennsylvania library commission."

Such an intention was not in the mind of the writer of the editorial. On the contrary, the work of the library commission of Pennsylvania as it has been known has been most highly considered as helpful and important to the libraries of Pennsylvania. The lack of appreciation on the part of trustees referred to is not confined to Pennsylvania alone, nor was that impression intended to be conveyed by the article. **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** maintains that a much needed work with library trustees all over the country remains to be done.

The letter from a correspondent in California (See p. 197), referring to the great lack in this regard in the locality she discusses, is but one of a thousand instances that might be cited the whole country over.

A school for library trustees has often been mentioned as a very great need in the development of library work.

A Tribute

A business man of large interests, in Ilion, N. Y., sends the following with a request that it be used in **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**. It is so fitting and so rare an occurrence that such an expression should be made that it is with pleasure that space is given to it.

The resignation of Miss Anna Perkins as librarian of the Public library, Ilion, N. Y., to the people of Ilion means a personal loss. For 20 years she gave her best efforts, her very self to the library work. She was with the library from its beginning and felt proud that with the years it outstripped in circulation and equipment, libraries in many larger towns. Her ambition was to serve fully the needs of the library patron. Busy clubwomen were always sure of finding the material which they needed carefully arranged, and often she helped them with practical suggestions on some trying paper. The school children from

the days of their first grade books until they were graduated knew that her ready help was always at hand. In fact there was no detail too trivial for her to look up, no reference too troublesome to find if it were a matter of helping anyone. So when sickness and length of service at last broke down even her strong will, the townspeople realized that through her resignation they had lost more than an efficient librarian—an old friend.

Joint Meeting A. L. A. and N. E. A.

The time of the meeting of the National education association for 1915 in Berkeley is August 16-27. There has been much discussion for a number of years of having a joint session of the N. E. A. and A. L. A. some time when they both were in the same locality. If it seems advisable to hold the 1915 meeting of A. L. A. in San Francisco, a plan that will doubtless meet with general favor, then it might be well to plan this meeting so that it would be possible for the two associations to hold the joint meeting of which so much has been heard. This joint meeting was a long cherished wish of Dr Irwin Shepard, the highly esteemed secretary of the N. E. A. for so many years. Dr Shepard is now in California, as secretary to the Bureau of conventions and doubtless would be glad to lend his aid toward a successful joint meeting of these two great educational bodies.

A Tribute to Honored Teachers and Colleagues

The New York state library and library school have received many notable demonstrations of loyalty and affection during the past three years from those who have shared in the benefits or had a part in the work and spirit of these allied institutions; but no event has brought out in a happier or more touching way, the reality, depth and universality of this feeling than the celebration which was held at the library on April 1, in honor of the three senior members of the staff and faculty who on that day completed each a quarter century of continuous service. Miss Flor-

ence Woodworth, Miss Ada Alice Jones and Mr Walter S. Biscoe. In a sense the tribute was of course a personal one, expressing individual affection and regard that had grown out of delightful personal relations; but there was that in the demonstration which marked it unmistakably as something more than a mere tribute to friendship and affection. In nearly every utterance it was made evident that the celebration was primarily in honor of an idea, a cause, an ideal of service, and that the persons to whom the tribute was rendered were thus honored because they embodied in such a happy and complete measure that idea and ideal.

In the mere matter of numbers participating, the celebration was impressive. A score of libraries of New York state were represented in person, more than 100 members of the State library staff were present, 19 different classes of the Library school were represented and librarians came to bring their tribute of interest and good will from places as far distant as Utica, Hartford, New York, Jersey City and Cambridge, Mass. Letters of congratulation were received from 283 persons, telegrams from eight and cablegrams from two. The assembly room was bountifully supplied with flowers sent by those who were not satisfied with merely verbal tributes; and from the Alumni association of the Library school came gifts sufficient to provide for each of the honored guests, a beautiful and valuable memorial of the occasion.

The exercises were opened by Mr J. I. Wyer, Jr., Director of the State library and of the Library school, who briefly and happily expressed the spirit and thought of the occasion, paying a warm personal and professional tribute to his former teachers and present colleagues, to each of whom he acknowledged a debt of deep gratitude. Though the occasion was nominally in recognition of *length* of service, it was the quality rather than the extent of it that Mr Wyer pronounced most worthy of honor. Special commendation was made by him of the calmness, serenity and faith with

which these devoted workers had seen the work of their best years destroyed in a night and the undaunted spirit with which they had set about the work of restoration.

Mr Frank L. Tolman, reference librarian of the State library, speaking in behalf of his colleagues on the library staff, expressed in poetic terms his sense of the value to the library cause of the service that these three devoted workers had rendered. "This occasion," he said, "is significant, for it commemorates not only a period in your long and efficient service to the state, not only an era in the history of this historic library, but an epoch in the library development of this country. Twenty-five years ago you cast your lot with that modern crusader, Melvil Dewey, in his holy war. Through this institution he hoped to regenerate the State. . . . The dreamer of dreams, the seer of visions, what can he accomplish without a band of disciples? The stubbornness of fact yields only to the greater stubbornness of industry, patience and intelligence. The toil and sweat of the struggle were on your shoulders, and a large measure of success was your reward. After many years, years of success, Mr Dewey retired from the field, but his idea,—his and yours,—lived and flourished because you remained. . . . The future now looms big with promise for this library.

"Melvil Dewey was not the only dreamer of this State. As long ago as 1784, the 'first year after the war,' a group of idealists passed the first of a series of bills through the Legislature. They dreamed of a federation of learning; of future universities, colleges, schools, and cultural societies fused into one body and one spirit—the mystic University of the State of New York. This university was to be in very truth, as its president has lately said, 'the remembering and aspiring soul of the State.' The dream of Melvil Dewey and the dreams of those elder statesmen and the vision of President Finley, fuse into one. . . . The future hath still need of you, Miss Jones, and you, Miss Woodworth, and you, Mr Biscoe."

Dr John H. Finley, representing the State Education department, expressed his gratitude and pride in the fact that the department included such representatives of unworldliness, idealism and devotion to the things of the spirit as those who were this day being honored. He regretted that the worth of such service as they had rendered to the state was not more adequately recognized by legislature, but material recognition and pecuniary rewards, he said, were at best but small things compared with the rewards they found in the work itself. To them was given the high privilege of living in a world they most loved, of doing the work they most wanted to do, and this was life's supreme blessing. He envied them their lot, and to prove that this was no passing mood of the moment, he quoted the following lines, entitled, "To a Book-Worm," which he had written and published a dozen years ago.

Oh gentle worm, most wise, though oft denounced a pest,

Who didst the pages of the ancients' books infest,

Their contents chew upon and inwardly digest,
I envy thee when o'er thy course I look.

For 'twixt the vellum walls of some sweet classic tome,

'Mid leaves inkscented, thou didst have thy cloistered home,

All margined round with virgin fields in which to roam

Whene'er thou caredst to leave thy lettered nook.

And when thou 'dst riddled thy last line, O Ptinidus,

What happy destiny was thine, denied to us,
To lay thy sapient bones in such sarcophagus,
And be forever buried in a book.

The greetings, congratulations and good wishes from the Alumni association of the Library school, together with substantial memorial gifts, were presented by the secretary, Miss Harriet R. Peck, librarian of the Rensselaer polytechnic institute of Troy. She was followed by Miss Isabella K. Rhodes of the State library staff, who had served as committee of arrangements for the celebration, and who read a dozen or more of the messages that had been sent to this committee from former members of the staff

and graduates of the Library school. The following are a few typical contributions to this delightful symposium of good will, gratitude, pride and affection:

(Telegram) Lake Placid Club.
Grateful for the splendid record. We are celebrating the quarter centennial here also. Mailed three letters to the star and leading ladies.
MELVIL DEWEY.

Worcester County Law Library.

I wish on my own behalf as well as on behalf of the class of 1889, to present felicitations on the triple twenty-fifth anniversary of Mr Biscoe, Miss Jones and Miss Woodworth as members of the staff of New York State library and as instructors in the State Library school. As one of the second class of the school, I remember the removal of the school to Albany under Mr Dewey in 1889. . . . Each of the three celebrants contributed in his or her individual way to the success of the school. Mr Biscoe's erudition was only equalled by his conscientious pursuit, even unto six places, of any out-of-the-way bit of knowledge. Miss Jones as cataloger was firm and unbending in her ideals of scholarship. Miss Woodworth's sunny nature rounded off the rough places, and made plain the paths and smooth the walks of library service.

In behalf of my class I wish the three celebrants many more years of happiness, joy, peace and rest.

G. E. WIRE,

Permanent secretary, class of 1889.

Miami, Florida.

I regret that I cannot be at the celebration which is to mark the completion of 25 years of service at the State library on the part of Miss Woodworth, Miss Jones and Mr Biscoe, but I wish to send my personal tribute. Every student who has passed under their care is under great obligation to each of these honored and well loved teachers. Their instruction, their counsel and their example have not only shown us the methods of library science, but have also interpreted to us its spirit, and have impressed upon us the value of thorough, accurate, discriminating and persistent work in the library profession, and their personal and friendly interest in each one of us has been a constant encouragement and inspiration. They have our love, our gratitude and our good wishes without reserve. May they long continue to be the veterans of the faculty of the veteran library school.

WILLIAM R. EASTMAN.

New York Public Library,
Office of the Director.

Miss Florence Woodworth,
Miss Ada Alice Jones,
Mr Walter S. Biscoe.

Dear Teachers:

I can think of no better way to address you, because you were all teachers of mine when I was a student in the Library school in

the winter of 1890-91, and there seems no other group cognomen that fits so well. . . .

To each of you I owe so much for your kindly guidance in library science and for your loyal and able support when fifteen years later I became Director there, that I cannot let the anniversary go by without a personal expression of appreciation.

Those who know the history of the development of the library school idea and its influence on library practice and standards, realize what an important part all three of you have borne in that development. . . . I offer my congratulations in several capacities; first, as one of your former students, later as Director of the State library and Library school, now as Director of the New York public library and President of the American library association. I also add my personal congratulations and best wishes for a continuance of your great service to librarianship.

E. H. ANDERSON.

Rochester Public Library.

My greeting and best wishes to the honored trio, Woodworth, Jones, Biscoe,—names which stand in my mind for at least two distinct things. First, for individuals whose personality was indelibly impressed upon me during my school course and who are associated with two of the most delightful and learning-full years of my life. In the second place I think of them as types; Mr Biscoe the omniscient, Miss Jones, the exact, Miss Woodworth, the tactful. That the school has had such an unbroken record of success is due in a large measure to the remarkable combination of many strong qualities in the staff of instructors. . . . Long live the combination.

WILLIAM F. YUST.

Division of Educational Extension, Public Libraries Section.

There are three things that go to make up the ideal librarian, the love of books, the love of folks and the love of system.

The New York State library school has its pre-eminence mainly in the fact that from its very beginning it has embodied in a pre-eminent degree, these three things. They have their ideal personification in the three persons whom we delight to honor to-day.

Mr Biscoe, in whom modern library science and the spirit and taste of the old time librarian are so perfectly blended;

Miss Woodworth, in whose person the world of books and the world of folks find such a happy meeting place;

Miss Jones, who, like Kipling, finds and reveals poetry in machinery and mechanics and makes the humble apprentice in cataloging glow with the feeling, 'I too am an artist.'

In the thought of what their example and spirit are accomplishing in the large library world which they have done so much to enrich, may they find a full reward.

ASA WYNKOOP.

Washington, D. C.

To Miss Woodworth, Miss Jones, Mr Biscoe:

When yet the art was young whereby man
found
His way through pathless tracts of printed
books,
There came three pioneers, each full of hope,
To make plain paths and wide,
The wise to guide.

The first said, "Those who come this way
must know
Which turn leads to the springs of Bibbot
I'll place as sign board Graesse and Brunet,
Old Watt and Roorbach grey,
Will point the way."

The second said, "'Twere well to blaze a
trail,
And records leave of pitfalls and of paths
Unsafe for entry, where destruction lies:
I'll blaze one in red ink—
'Twill make them think."

The third was silent still, while bending low
She planted in the by-ways, seeds and ferns,
And then she smiled and spoke: "They'll
flowers find;
They may lose heart the while—
'Twill make them smile."

We who came after know not all the toil
Of the first workers in that unknown land,
Who cleared a way that we might build
thereon,
To them we would repay
Our thanks today.

HARRIET WHEELER PIERSON.

To Mr Biscoe:

Numbers answer to your name,
Numbers testify your fame
Numbers rise your name to bless,
Yet your friends are numberless.

FLORENCE WHITTIER.

The formal exercises were closed with brief and characteristic responses from the three guests of the day, each modestly disclaiming any sense of special merit in the record they had so unexpectedly heard praised and honored, and each testifying to the joy and satisfaction they had found in their twenty-five years of service, both in the work itself and in the rare and precious fellowships it had brought them.

After these exercises, the staff of the State library tendered an informal reception and repast to all participating in the celebration, providing an opportunity for personal congratulations and the renewal of many old associations.

The Washington Program

Four general sessions instead of the usual six will be one of the noticeable features of the Washington program, the committee having taken into consideration the many libraries and other educational objects of interest which should be visited, especially by those who have not been in Washington before. As a further aid in this direction the general sessions, except the last, will be held in the evening. It is thus believed that notwithstanding the meetings of sections and affiliated societies each morning and afternoon, there will be daylight time for the librarians to do a certain amount of visiting to the institutions of the District of Columbia and to see the exhibits at the Public library and elsewhere.

At the opening session, following a greeting from the Librarian of Congress, President Anderson will deliver his presidential address, and H. H. B. Meyer, of the Library of Congress, will give an illustrated talk on the libraries of Washington, which will be a timely hint as to what should be seen during the week. One or two other interesting features for this session are being arranged.

Several well-known speakers have been secured to address us. Dr J. Franklin Jameson, director of historical research of the Carnegie institution of Washington, widely recognized as an historical expert, author and editor, will speak on "The need of a national archive building." Better care for our archives is a vital question with American scholars, and no one is better qualified by experience or by official position to speak on this need than is Dr Jameson. The work of the American federation of arts is a subject about which perhaps librarians do not know as much as they should. With this thought, perhaps, in mind the president persuaded Robert W. DeForest, of New York, the president of the federation, and Miss Leila Mechlin, the secretary, to address the association on this subject. Miss Mechlin's address will be illustrated by the stereopticon. Mr DeForest is well-known for his interest in art, having been for some years an officer of the Metropolitan museum of art in New York.

Doubtless most librarians have purchased those little manuals so exceedingly useful to the newly arrived would-be citizen, "Guide to the United States," compiled by John Foster Carr, director of the Immigrant education society of New York, and it will be agreeable news that Mr Carr will address us on "The library and the immigrant." Although the subject is closely akin to Mary Antin's of last year, we know Mr Carr will have a point of view and a helpful thought entirely his own. Dr P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, who was deeply interested in libraries and library development long before he robbed a certain southern library of its able and energetic executive, will discuss "Libraries for rural communities," a phase of the library question which is receiving increasing attention, and in which Dr Claxton is particularly interested.

"The present trend" is the suggestive title chosen by Charles K. Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, for a paper, and W. N. C. Carlton, of the Newberry library, has whetted our curiosity by taking as the title of his promised paper "Prestige, or *Audi alteram partem*." We are sure that both these gentlemen, out of their diversified experience will give us all food for thought and discussion.

Seven years ago, the American library association met in the South, in Asheville, North Carolina. Although Washington as our national capital is neither south nor north, yet in a sense we are again meeting this year in the South, for the District of Columbia is well south of the Dixie line. At Asheville, it will be remembered Miss Wallace presented an historical survey of library conditions in the South, and representatives of southern states followed in a brief symposium of conditions in the respective states from which they came. So it is fitting that at this next meeting in the South, a report be heard of what has transpired since the survey at Asheville and Miss Katharine Wootten, of the Atlanta library, a southern woman and a southern librarian, has consented to

bring this message and present it to us. Also Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh will entertain us and bring to us certain lessons in "Readings from recent fiction," and we all know that when "Miss Van" goes out to stalk a moral she will find it and bring it in dead or alive.

So much for the general sessions. These will be held in the Continental memorial hall, the building of the Daughters of the American Revolution, than which there is no finer auditorium in America.

Space fails to tell in detail of the plans of the various sections and affiliated associations, whose meetings for the most part will be held in the New Willard hotel.

Do the state liability and workmen's compensation acts apply to libraries? the work of the Children's Bureau; new courses in library schools; the state library and its librarian; the county agent and his relation to rural library work; the functions and jurisdiction of the Court of Customs Appeals; what is the matter with present coöperative methods? a round table of branch librarians and a meeting of school librarians are a few pertinent topics culled from a hasty perusal of their programs.

The conference will open Monday evening, May 25 and close Friday afternoon, May 29.

GEORGE B. UTLEY.

Exhibit Material Wanted

The Bureau of Education, Washington, has sent out a request to the libraries to coöperate with them in preparing a school library exhibit for the three school library meetings that will be held in Washington at the time of the American library association meetings.

The requests for material include reading lists, courses of study in library methods, pamphlets on school library administration, photographic views, graphic charts showing the library work with schools, blanks and forms used in school work, laws pertaining to school libraries and the relations between the public library and school libraries. Any lists that may be distributed at the meetings are also requested.

Travel Arrangements

There is very little, if anything, new to report concerning travel arrangements for the A. L. A. conference at Washington, beyond what was given in **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** for April, (See page 166.)

The New England party will be in charge of F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis St., Boston, Mass., who urges that early application for reservation be made, and of whom any inquiries for information concerning any phase of the arrangements may be made, including the post-conference trip.

C. H. Brown, 26 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. is the travel secretary for the party from New York and adjoining territory. Mr Brown will answer promptly and fully any questions concerning the arrangements for his territory.

John F. Phelan, Chicago public library, is the Travel secretary for Chicago and territory west. A special train on the Pennsylvania, leaving Sunday afternoon, May 24, has been secured and those intending to travel with the Chicago party on the special train are requested to register as soon as possible.

Northern trip to Europe

The Northern tour planned for librarians who expect to go from America to see the Leipzig book exhibit is full of interesting possibilities and promise of comfort.

The party leaves New York for Christiania by the Scandinavian-American line on July 14. The first stop is at Christiania for three days, with opportunity to visit the art galleries, libraries, museums and other places of interest in that interesting city, or within easy reach by steamer or trolley.

The journey will be continued over the inland mountains to Bergen, with one day in this quaint mediaeval city. The trip from Bergen northward to Trondhjem will cover several days and take in several of the most beautiful of the fjords. The Northern summer nights can be viewed in all their grandeur on this trip northward. From Trondhjem the party will proceed to Stockholm, by

way of the famous Meraker valley. A stay of two days will be made in Stockholm, which is often called the most beautiful city in all Europe. Its Royal library, great museum, art galleries and other institutions, including the Royal castle, offer unusual attractions.

A visit will be made to Upsala, with its great university library, its castle, cathedral, churches and other structures dating back to the middle of the twelfth century. From Upsala the party will proceed to Lund with its ancient cathedral and new university library, and by way of Malmö to Copenhagen, the largest city of Northern Europe. The art collections, great Royal library, university library, museums and other attractions, together with the open air concerts given by the Royal orchestra, afford much pleasure.

Three days will be spent in Berlin before proceeding to Dresden and Leipzig. Three days are allowed for the Library exposition, after which the party goes by way of Cologne to Brussels and thence to London and Oxford.

The itinerary includes return to Liverpool and steamship berth on the "Teutonic" sailing September 5. Hotel and other accommodations will cease with breakfast in Leipzig. The inclusive fare is \$370. This will include all the expenses of living, transfer, necessary fees for sightseeing, drives and local excursions, as laid out in the itinerary and return passage from England.

Many librarians have pleasant personal acquaintance with Scandinavian librarians, and an opportunity for renewing these will undoubtedly be afforded. Among these may be mentioned Dr Andersson, Upsala; Dr Steenberg and his daughter at Copenhagen; Mr Kildahl of Bergen, and others who have been at the various library schools in United States and visitors to American libraries.

Mr Hanson of the University of Chicago will answer any inquiries relating to this trip.

The Southern trip

The party going by the Southern route will sail from Boston July 11. They will

visit the Azore Islands, Madeira, Gibraltar, Algiers, Naples, Amalfi, Capri, Pompeii, Rome, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck, Munich, Nuremberg and Leipzig.

The total cost of the trip from Leipzig to London, and return steamer berth, is \$370. This includes all the regular accommodations and transportation, carriages, etc., and return passage from England. Mr Faxon of Boston will give any desired information concerning this trip.

The dates of the two parties are arranged so that they may meet in Leipzig August 18.

School Librarians' Conference

At the A. L. A. meetings, Washington, D. C., May 25-29

Meeting of Normal and High school librarians, 9:30 a. m. Friday, May 29. Leader, Mary E. Hall, Girl's high school, Brooklyn.

College and Normal school courses in the use of the library and in children's literature. Dr P. P. Claxton, U. S. commissioner of education.

How the library of the Bureau of Education may serve the schools. Dr J. D. Wolcott, librarian, Bureau of Education.

Survey of the school library situation. Willis H. Kerr, State normal school, Emporia, Kansas.

Need of appropriation for school libraries. Louis R. Wilson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Laws pertaining to school library work. Mrs Pearl Williams Kelley, State board of education, Nashville, Tenn.

School library work in Texas. Rosa M. Leeper, Dallas public library.

Discussion of plans for further organization and activity.

Resolutions and recommendations.

Election of officers for 1915.

The English Teacher's Journal club of Washington will hold its May meeting with the school librarians, and arrangements are being made to secure Prof Charles Alphonso Smith, of the University of Virginia, as one of the speakers at this meeting.

Normal school round-table

Leader, Mary C. Richardson, State normal school, Castine, Me.

The need of state supervision for school libraries. Mrs P. P. Claxton, Washington, D. C.

Do teacher-librarian graduates find positions? Willis H. Kerr, Emporia, Kansas.

Is there need of standardizing library courses in Normal schools? Lucy E. Fay, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Some essentials in courses of library instruction. Julia A. Hopkins, School of library science, Pratt institute.

Informal discussion of topics sent by librarians.

Normal and High school librarians will please send as soon as possible to the Round Table leaders problems which they wish to hear discussed at the meetings.)

High school round table

Leader, Anna Hadley, Gilbert school, Winsted, Conn.

Topics and speakers to be announced later.

School librarians from all parts of the United States are earnestly invited to come to these meetings to help in discussion and to get something for their own work.

School library exhibit.

The Bureau of Education is preparing a School Library exhibit in connection with these meetings. The plan is to present school library work throughout the United States in an exhibit which may be permanently available, on request, for use at educational meetings.

Letters have been sent to normal and high schools and to public libraries and library commissions asking for the following material:

Reading lists; Debating; Vocational guidance; Holiday celebration, etc.

Courses of study in library methods.

Pamphlets on school library administration.

Photographic views, exterior and interior, of school library buildings; of "Library Hour" with children, etc.

Graphic charts showing library work with schools.

Blanks and forms used in school work.

Laws pertaining to school libraries and the relation between public library and school library.

Encouraging replies and interesting material are coming from all parts of the United States. John Cotton Dana, of the Free public library of Newark, N. J., an authority on the printing and mounting of exhibition material, has been consulted, and the Bureau of Education is fortunate in securing some assistance from him in the preparation of this exhibit.

Ontario Library Association

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Ontario library association was held in the Public library of Toronto, April 13-14. The general topic for discussion was "The library situation in Ontario, and its possibilities."

The opening session on Monday morning was taken up with business transactions and reports of the various committees. The Executive committee, with a few guests, had luncheon together, at which the future policy of the association was discussed.

At the afternoon session the president, W. F. Moore, of Dundas, reviewed the library situation under the title "What has been done." He spoke very highly of the interest taken in library work by the Government, and paid high compliment to the helpfulness of the association to those interested in libraries. Dr E. A. Hardy and Inspector W. R. Nurse received credit for their personal share in the development of library work.

Mr Locke, chief-librarian of Toronto, reviewed the near approach of disaster in the proposed legislation of the past winter when the bill carried to make the majority of the library trustees school teachers. W. H. Arison, of Niagara Falls, outlined what duties fell to the various powers in library administration, giving the trustees the place of business managers and the librarians the duty of managing the contents of the library to the best advantage of the community.

At the close of the afternoon session, the association was invited to the Canadian Historical room in the library, where Mr J. Ross Robertson met the delegates and friends and explained the significance of the 500 pictures recently added to the famous collection illustrating Canadian history.

On Monday evening, Matthew S. Dudgeon, secretary of the Wisconsin library commission, delivered an address on "The universality of library service." Mr Dudgeon told of the work in Wisconsin in making the contents of the library available and helpful to the vari-

ous communities throughout the state, from the advanced courses in University extension to the lumber camps and small mining villages in the northern part of the state. The address was illustrated by accounts of special localities, which added greatly to the interest of the address, especially the account of the full civic funeral given on the death of the woman librarian of a Wisconsin town.

The annual exhibit of the Ontario Society of artists was opened to the delegates and their friends, and an informal reception was tendered to the visitors.

On Tuesday morning a very interesting paper was presented by W. J. Sykes, of Ottawa, outlining effective methods of book selection. He said that the librarian was best fitted to round out the collection, but that he should be free from strong bias in doing so. The list of the preceding year, checked up with periodicals, guides and English journals, would assist in getting the right books into the library.

W. O. Carson, of London, in an address on "Book purchase," pointed out the sources of help in the various commercial guides, book lists, etc., which a library buying books in quantity should possess. Mr Carson pointed out the lack of good books of interest published in Canada, and said that practically the majority of these were imported.

The report of the Resolutions committee, after expressing appreciation of the hospitality extended by their hosts, recommended that the association take under its care the new library for the blind and that the Government be asked to defray the expense of translating works of Canadian authors into the raised characters of books for the blind. The Government was requested to send its reports to libraries, bound in plain board instead of paper covers, and to make provision for training librarians.

A most interesting presentation was that of Dr E. A. Hardy, secretary, in a review of "The library situation in organized effort." Dr Hardy said that there are about 75 municipalities which

have not libraries. In some other places the libraries were practically dead. They had been planted in poor soil. Dr Hardy advocated county libraries as furnishing the best unit for support. In many localities the municipality is a unit too small to furnish proper resources. In speaking of the scheme of placing libraries in post offices, Dr Hardy said it would be very easy to circulate the books through this means, but practically impossible to get the books back to the library.

The report of the Committee on Public library institutes was printed before the meeting and distributed to the delegates. The report continued the story of progress which has been given before. There are 15 institute districts, each furnishing interesting data, statistical and other kinds, worthy of careful study. There are only 22 libraries out of 382 which have not yet come into contact with the organized library movement of the province.

There were 191 accredited delegates present at the meeting, who, with a number of visitors, brought the attendance within the neighborhood of 250. There was an unusual spirit of professional interest expressed in the various propositions set forth, and a unanimity in conclusions reached that argued well for the future possibilities of the association.

The following officers were elected: President, W. O. Carson, London; first vice-president, David Williams, Collingwood; secretary-treasurer, Dr E. A. Hardy. Councillors elected were: H. J. Clarke, Belleville; Mary Black, Fort William; D. M. Grant, Sarnia; F. J. Gain, Windsor; W. J. Sykes, Ottawa, and W. H. Moore, Dundas. Technical committee: D. M. Grant, Dr E. A. Hardy, G. H. Locke and M. Dunham.

A resolution was passed appointing W. F. Moore, George H. Locke and Mary Black, representatives of the library association at the Oxford library meeting in England next September.

Saskatchewan Library Association

A meeting to organize a library association for the Province of Saskatchewan, Northwest Canada, was held on April 13, in the public library building of the city of Moose Jaw. The meeting was attended by all the most prominent educationalists in the province, as well as a number of those engaged actively in library work.

Mr J. R. C. Honeyman, chief librarian of Regina public library, who had been chiefly responsible for calling the meeting, opened the proceedings with a brief address in which he outlined the legislation at present on the statute books with regard to libraries, and pointed the necessity of forming an association, not only for the benefit of librarians themselves, but to form a body of public opinion to secure needed legislation.

A constitution was drafted and adopted, based on the constitution of the Ontario library association.

The following officers were appointed: President, Mr C. W. Cameron, of the Collegiate institute, Saskatoon; vice-president, Mr A. H. Gibbard, librarian, Moose Jaw public library; secretary-treasurer, J. R. C. Honeyman. Members of council: Messrs A. Kennedy, Weyburn; J. G. Gallaway, North Battleford; and G. A. Brown, Prince Albert.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted requesting the Provincial Government to place the administration of legislation affecting the library system of the province in the hands of the Minister of Education; also that the Provincial Government so amend the School Acts as to provide that where a public library has been established under the "Public Libraries' Act" in any city or town municipality, upon the request of the School Board of such city or town, the Library Board may take over the control, management and supervision of all school libraries, upon such terms as may be mutually agreed upon between the respective boards. It was also resolved that the Association urge upon the Government the desirability of taking im-

mediate steps towards providing the rural communities of the province with library facilities. As a rider to this it was suggested that the rural schools might conveniently be employed for the care and distribution of such books as might be provided.

Another resolution drew attention to the necessity for the simplification of the returns now required from the larger libraries in order to enable them to qualify for the Government Grants. Committees were appointed to interview the Minister of Education at the first available opportunity, and present to him the resolutions above referred to in person.

Before concluding the meeting, resolutions were adopted thanking Mr. Honeyman for his activity in connection with the work of organization, and also the Library Board of Moose Jaw for providing accommodation for the meeting.

An executive meeting was held immediately after the close of the general meeting, and after transacting the routine business, a telegram of greeting from the newly formed association was sent to the president of the Ontario library association in session at Toronto.

The Quality of Fiction

As regards literary value, of course the mere truth or falsity of the narrative can have little to do with this; yet I believe, as a matter of fact, the fictitious narrative has literary value oftener than the true narrative; for the reason offered above, that writers of truth consider it beneath their dignity to garnish it, like those fatuous dieticians who believe that so long as we take so much proteid and so much carbo-hydrate we need not worry over forms and flavors.

Now I am supposed to be telling you about fiction and about the propriety or impropriety of including much of it in libraries, but I think you see that I am sidling toward the statement that I think we need not consider fiction at all, as fiction, in this connection. The

reasons for rejecting fiction, when they exist, having nothing whatever to do with its being fiction, and would apply to non-fiction as well. If a biography purporting to relate the events in the life of Oliver Cromwell is full of errors, that is a reason why it should not stand on your library shelves. If a novel, purporting to give a correct idea of life in Chicago, succeeds only in leaving the impression that the city is peopled with silly and immoral persons, that is equally a reason for rejection. If a history of the Italian Renaissance is filled with unsavory details, these might exclude it, just as they might exclude a novel whose scene was laid in the same period. The story of a criminal's life, if so written as to make wrong appear right, might be rejected for this reason whether the original really existed or not. A poor, trashy book of travel should no more be placed in the shelves than a novel of the same grade, and if our book funds are limited we can no more buy all the biography or travel or books on chemistry or philosophy than we can buy all the novels that fall from the press. I do not deny, of course, that any or all the reasons for rejection that have been adduced might be over-balanced by others in favor of purchase, and they might be so over-balanced in the case of fiction as well as in that of non-fiction.

In other words, I should not buy a book because it is fiction, or turn it down for the same reason, any more than I would buy or fail to buy a book because it is biography or travel. I say I should not do this any more in one case than in another. I might want to do it occasionally in both. I believe that the more we forget the mere issue of fiction versus non-fiction, and try instead to draw the line between useful books and harmful ones, wise books and silly ones, books that help and books that hinder, books that exalt and those that depress, books that excite high emotions and books that stir up low ones—the sooner we shall be good librarians.—Arthur E. Bostwick, in *A. L. A. Proceedings*, 1913.

Foreign Books in New York Public Library

The latest report of the New York public library records 32,311 foreign titles, most of them standard works in fiction, drama, poetry, science, and literature, including translations from the best English authors. Alphabetically, the distribution of books by language is: Arabic, 36; Bohemian, 3,525; Chinese, 182; Danish, 237; Dutch, 55; Finnish, 138; French, 4,419; German, 11,355; Greek (classical), 107; Greek (modern), 135; Hebrew, 595; Hungarian, 2,528; Italian, 1,955; Latin, 183; Norwegian, 385; Polish, 1,331; Rumanian, 611; Russian, 2,059; Servian, 70; Slovak, 157; Spanish, 739; Swedish, 474; Yiddish, 961; various others, 74.

There were 92,241 v. in foreign languages in the circulation department, and 499,350 v. were circulated in 26 languages. The largest circulation was German, followed by Yiddish, French, Hungarian, Russian, Bohemian and Italian in the order given. A large number of foreign periodicals, as well as newspapers, are taken. Foreign societies do much to aid their compatriots, and many hold their meetings in the auditoriums of the libraries. The various changes in the locality are shown by the increase and decrease in the classes of books called for by various foreign readers. It would be almost impossible to handle the bulk of the work, the library authorities say, without assistance from the more intelligent natives of the various countries in making known the scope and purpose of the library.

An Appreciation

One hears considerable, in discussing library development in the Middle-West, of the progress and development of the Public library of Sioux City, Ia., and a substantiation of the report comes when the mayor of the city in his canvass for re-election, in setting forth his platform, uses the following language:

I want to see the public library maintained on its present high plane and not cramped by inadequate appropriations.

Library Meetings

Arkansas—The fourth annual meeting of the Arkansas library association was held at Pine Bluff, April 2-3, Dr C. H. Brough presiding. In holding the meeting in Pine Bluff it was felt that an impetus could be given the new movement there for a public library. Rabbi Joseph Jasin, a representative from the Pine Bluff library association, opened the meeting with an address of welcome. The keynote of Rabbi Jasin's address was that the library is a necessity rather than a luxury. A response to the address of welcome was made by Dr Brough the president. Dr Brough holds the chair of economics at the State university and is thoroughly acquainted with the economies and intellectual need of the state. He made an eloquent appeal for libraries in the towns and cities of the state and further emphasized the immediate necessity of more libraries.

Miss Marguerite English, children's librarian, Little Rock public library, gave an illuminating paper "Southern libraries and their work." She reviewed the work of the more aggressive libraries showing the large possibilities for the library in awakening the intellectual spirit of the South.

A. H. Simmons, librarian at Hendricks college, discussed "The public library in its relation to the schools and colleges," giving practical ideas for better coöperation and correlation.

Rev Mr Ingham, the founder and organizer of the Camden public library, the first public library in the state, discussed briefly the establishment of libraries in the smaller towns. He urged the people not to delay until their town should be large enough for a Carnegie building but to immediately set to work to secure a room and a small nucleus of books, adding to this collection persistently each year, as a library so secured through the zeal and sacrifice of the citizens would be best appreciated.

Eva Reichardt, State organizer of the School Improvement associations, gave a talk on the school improvement libraries in the rural districts. She especially

urged the Pine Bluff citizens in the event of establishing a public library, to first secure an efficient librarian as otherwise the library would become merely an architectural addition to the city.

At 6:30 the library workers were the guests of the Pine Bluff library association at a dinner served in the Hotel Jefferson. A delightful musical program was rendered. After the dinner, the guests were driven by automobile to the Chamber of Commerce where a public meeting was held. Mr Dan Taylor, president of the Pine Bluff library association, opened the meeting with an earnest plea to the people of his city to ally themselves with intellectual movements of the times, definitely organize a library campaign for an adequate building, and place themselves in the vanguard of the Arkansas library movement. This enthusiastic address was followed by a carefully prepared paper "Arkansas and its libraries" by Miss Brower of Van Buren. Miss Brower through hundreds of letters, personal interviews and through investigation, carefully compiled material for this paper, the first real analysis of the library condition, a most valuable document.

George B. Utley of the American library association gave the address of the evening, "The changing conception of the public library." Whether layman or librarian, each one present felt that he had touched the library movement at every point. The librarians were given a broader, deeper view of the work, the laymen a new knowledge of the scope of the work emanating from the library centers. Mr Utley closed his address with welcome words of optimism for the library workers in Arkansas.

On Friday morning, some of the librarians visited the public school where stories and short talks about the library were given the children and teachers.

At a business session of the association the following officers were elected:

Dr C. H. Brough, president; Mrs C. W. Pettigrew, Pine Bluff, vice-president; Rev Mr Ingham, Camden, sec-

ond vice-president; Dr Joseph Jasin, Pine Bluff, field-secretary; Dorothy D. Lyon, secretary; Dan Taylor, Pine Bluff, Chairman of advisory board, other members to be named by the president later.

At the request of the State federation of women's clubs, and the State teachers' association delegates were elected to represent the Arkansas library association on the programs of each.

It was also decided to send a library exhibit to the state fair in October. It is the purpose of the library association to get the library movement before the people through as many organizations, and as much publicity as possible.

Resolutions of appreciation of the kindness and hospitality of the citizens of Pine Bluff were heartily endorsed.

On Friday morning, a joint meeting of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce and the Young Men's Progressive Business League met with Mr Utley to discuss the immediate steps for a public library for their city.

A long automobile ride closed the pleasantest library meeting ever held in the state.

DOROTHY W. LYON,
Secretary.

Chicago—The April meeting of the Chicago library club was held in the rooms of the Western society of engineers on April 9. The president announced the appointment of the committee to report at the annual meeting May 14.

Mr Koch of the University of Michigan addressed the Club on "The arts of illustration." His very able presentation of the various processes of book illustration was supplemented by excellent lantern slides showing the distinctive features of methods of wood engraving, copper plates, etchings, mezzotints, steel engravings, lithography and half tones. The Lumière process of color photography was shown by unusually fine colored slides.

After adjournment the members of the club enjoyed a social hour through the hospitality of Mr Warder, librarian of the Western society of engineers.

Long Island, N. Y.—The regular meeting of the Long Island library club was held at the Long Island historical society Thursday evening, March 12.

After a brief business meeting, Miss Hassler announced that Miss Lutie Stearns would be unable to address the club as planned because of the death of her mother and sister. Regret at her non-appearance and sympathy with her great loss were expressed. In her place Miss Connolly of the Newark public library spoke on "The librarian's bootstraps." She prefaced her remarks by saying she was a teacher and not a librarian by profession and that her function in the Newark library was to criticize. First of all, she said, she wished to restore to librarians confidence in their fellow man, that because the public purloined, mutilated and stole books and refused to pay fines it did not mean innate and hopeless wickedness, but that an otherwise honest public was and would continue to be unscrupulous as far as books are concerned in the belief that the knowledge contained in them is free, freer than any library-made rules. She then spoke of the need for better salaries and more scholarly workers in the profession. She said the feeling was prevalent that anyone working with books belonged to the elect, the cultured, the literate and for that reason one was willing to take less money, thus keeping salaries and standards low. As a remedy she suggested that during the first three years of work assistants should become expert in technique, taking great care not to become machines, that all those without ability should be dismissed, it being a crime to allow such to continue in the work beyond the three years, that anyone showing ability in any particular line of work should be rewarded by shortening the time of service two hours a week, the time so given to be devoted to study along the particular bent displayed, and as the assistant's ability and value increased to give still more time until finally one could go to the trustees and ask for an increase of \$200 in salary and a shortening of hours of service to 35 a week in

view of the fact that the library has a scholar. She closed by saying that the library profession needed scholars with souls to make live librarians, but that to obtain them, time was necessary to develop ability.

The president then announced Far Rockaway as the place of the May meeting with Jamaica as alternative in case of bad weather.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to the Long Island historical society for its hospitality and the club adjourned to the library for social intercourse and refreshments.

ELEANOR ROPER,
Secretary.

Minnesota—The Spring meeting of the Twin City library club was held in St. Paul on the evening of March 24, 1914. The members of the club had dinner together. The tables were decorated with ferns and candles, and with a large bouquet of 40 Killarney roses that was presented to Mrs Helen McCaine, the president of the club, to commemorate the 40 years of her service in the St. Paul public library. The flowers were the gift of the club. Miss Countryman, of the Minneapolis public library, made the presentation with a beautiful message of love and appreciation.

The chief address of the evening was given by Dr William Dawson Johnston, who has recently succeeded Mrs McCaine as head of the St. Paul public library, and the meeting was largely in his honor.

Dr Johnston told in humorous vein of his thoughts and feelings as he left the "underground" environs of highly civilized New York and came into the bright and open regions of the West, "to play with giants," as he expressed it.

Dr Johnston advocated the administration of the library on the commission plan. "If the commission form of government is good for a city, then it is just as good for a library," said he. "Not only would this plan be a good thing for the librarian, but for the members of the staff. The best results can

be obtained by organization. I believe in an eight hour day for every one except librarians. Librarians must work days for love of the labor and they must work nights because they have to do so in order to prepare for the next day."

An address of welcome to Dr Johnston and his introduction to the club was given by Charles W. Ames, president of the St. Paul institute, and for the past fifteen years a member of the city library board.

Resolutions in honor of the late Richard A. Lavell, of Minneapolis, who died Nov. 28, 1913, were presented by Miss Baldwin, secretary of the State library commission, and were unanimously adopted.

MRS R. M. DUNLAP,
Secretary.

Joint meeting

Arrangements have been made to hold a joint meeting of the Wisconsin and Michigan library associations at Menominee and Marinette, July 29-31. Details are being worked out by the officers of the two associations and arrangements made for cordial hospitality in the two places.

The Library as a Peace Messenger

Dr Charles W. Eliot, in his recent report under the Carnegie endowment for international peace, recommended that an American free public library be established at Peking, China. A memorial, signed by 50 prominent Chinese, was submitted with the recommendation. Dr Eliot feels such a library conducted for a generation by American librarians, to be appointed and paid by the Carnegie endowment, would be a tremendous help in international relations. It would also serve as a model for other Chinese provinces or cities.

A copy of the first edition of Eugene Field's "The Tribune Primer" (Denver, Colo., 1881), was sold for \$330 at the recent sale of the Alexander collection in New York City. The original price was 25c.

Interesting Things in Print

The Kansas City public library has issued a reading list on Commission government, giving lists of books and periodicals, and in addition, references for debate material on both sides of the question.

The State board of library commissioners of Michigan issued a "Library assistant's manual," by Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan, on the occasion of the sixty-first annual meeting of the Michigan state teachers' association.

The March number of the *A. L. A. Bulletin*, in addition to announcements concerning the Washington meeting, contains an extensive rooming list giving detailed information about places for the accommodation of guests in Washington City.

The April *Bulletin* of the University of Georgia contains the plan of the Alumni association for securing an endowment fund for the purchase of books for the University library. The history of this library, which was begun in November, 1800, as given in the *Bulletin*, is most interesting.

A very complete reading list on "Human conservation" forms No. 7 of the Special library list of the Public library of Kansas City, Mo., just issued. This covers various phases of industrial, social and economic problems affecting children, wages, women and various other topics properly included under the title.

The London *Standard*, in an editorial on Americans as collectors, says:

Sooner or later it would seem Englishmen will have to cross the Atlantic if they wish to see the finest works of art and the rarest remains of antiquity. The old sneer at the taste of the American connoisseur has already been outlived; in fact, it seems to be transparently ridiculous. Not only are the rich men in the United States the wealthiest and most enthusiastic collectors but they are the most discriminating.

A subject index to the history of the North-West and Alaska, of material found in United States government doc-

uments, Congressional series, American state papers and other places, has been prepared by Katherine B. Judson, M. A., for the Seattle public library. The volume of 341 pages contains a mine of information which will be extremely valuable after the history of the region with which it deals comes more and more to take its place in the history of the whole country.

"G. Stanley Hall: a sketch," is the title of a volume of 100 pages, illustrated with portraits, by Louis N. Wilson, Litt. D., librarian of Clark university. While following very closely the life and progress of Dr Hall, the history of much of the development of the higher education in the last 40 years is included, because of the eminent part Dr Hall has taken in educational progress all his life. The bibliography of 328 entries closes the very interesting story. The personal friendship and admiration of Dr Wilson for Dr Hall makes the story a pleasant one and the reading of it illuminating as well as delightful.

A recent pamphlet issued by the Association of commerce of Grand Rapids, Mich., gives statistics as to the activities of the town, among which are assessed valuation, building permits, post office receipts, industrial activities, bank capital and surplus, saving deposits, etc. The public library is included, with the statistics of the number of volumes and their use for the past 13 years. The number of volumes when the new building was opened was 63,091 and the circulation, 143,615. Number of volumes in 1913, 131,484. Circulation, 790,235. Under the head of circulation, this library includes the figures of total use, reading room attendance, and all other records of attendance, as well as books issued for home use.

The Library of Congress has issued a catalog of Early books on music (before 1800) prepared by Julia Gregory, of the cataloging division, under the direction of O. S. Sonneck, chief of the division of music. It is for sale by the Government printing office at a price of 60 cents.

The preface states that the annoying gaps in the collection of music of the Library of Congress are gradually disappearing. Moreover, it has not been the policy of the Library of Congress to collect every or even many editions of a rare book, much less every known translation. First editions, without distinguishing matter, are not sought merely because they are first editions. The emphasis is on the history of music rather than on the history of particular books. An index to anonymous works closes the catalog, there being some ten pages.

The A. L. A. Publishing Board has issued four new preprints of the proposed "Manual of library economy."

"Library work with children," by Frances J. Olcott, is a very valuable presentation of the topic with discussions of concrete subjects, a plain recital of methods and plan, and definite information touching many points of the subject, with a bibliography of the educational place of library work with children and its organization.

"Library service," by Emma V. Baldwin, discusses appointment, qualifications and other matters relative to the administrative force of public libraries.

"Loan work," by Carl P. P. Vitz, is a discussion of the subject of the charging system as it has developed to the present, based on the material that has appeared in print from time to time.

"The free public library," a dissertation on the subject, is by Isabel Ely Lord.

The High School Branch

Those who are working as pioneers in the high school library field welcome the very convincing and complete pamphlet on "The High School branch of the public library" by Elizabeth B. McKnight and J. C. Dana. The prefatory note is significant.

Newark now has four high schools. Three of these were completed within the last three years. No one of these three is equipped with a library. In Newark as in most cities the public and the school authorities have not yet realized that the laboratory in which are kept the most fundamental and all-pervading of educational

tools—books—and in which the wise and helpful use of those books may be taught to all pupils is far more important than laboratories for teaching any science, or workshops for teaching the use of any tools. The principals and teachers of these new schools, however, are convinced that a library should form part of the equipment of their schools, and the school authorities will no doubt see that such are established in the near future.

This pamphlet tells of the Barringer high school branch of Newark and is of value as the best detailed account of the high school library in print. It should interest those who are already conducting such libraries elsewhere; those who are convinced of the value of the high school branch but wish for explicit directions; and the sceptical librarian, library trustee and school director who need to be persuaded that the high school library is a necessity even if the public library is in the immediate vicinity.

Young people of high school age need training day in and day out within the library laboratory of their own school. No matter how near, the public library is but a makeshift as a training center.

The advantages of the administration of the high school branch as a part of the library system under the city librarian is also emphasized. Books, pictures, maps and other helps are borrowed every day to make vivid the work of the school; the librarian works in the public library during school vacations thus getting in touch with all of its departments.

The value of the library to each department of the school is clearly brought out. The use by faculty, students and others living in the neighborhood is ample proof that its place in the school is fully established.

The library lessons begin in the eighth grade of the grammar school and are continued through the first three years of the high school course. The library is closed during the hours that the lessons are given. The ground covered in the elementary lesson is so extensive that one wonders how it is accomplished. The doubt also arises regard-

ing the giving of the lessons either in the public library or in the high school library. While it is feasible to bring children from nearby schools to the central library, it does not seem so wise to bring them from a distance unless the lesson consists of elements that cannot be taught in the school building or in branch libraries nearer their homes. The ideal plan would be to have the reference books where the pupils could put their newly acquired knowledge into practice. Visits to the central library to see the building and its various departments, as well as the rare books and pictures that cannot be borrowed, would seem more desirable.

The teaching of classes in the high school library has its drawbacks. It is unfortunate to keep other students out. Why is it not better to have the classes in one of the classrooms? Why is it not better to gradually make the library lessons a part of the English course taught by the English teachers? These questions and others come to mind as one reads this interesting booklet. No matter how widely we may differ as to minor details all high school librarians are enthusiastic over the results.

Mr Dana considers the List "Reading for pleasure and profit" as an integral part of this pamphlet. It is the result of experience with the interests of young people and has been revised several times since it was first issued in 1908 by the English instructors and the librarians. The question of the outside reading of high school students has been receiving much attention of late and no list is more suggestive than this, not only for the high school student but also for the general reader. "It is not a list of the world's greatest books, but rather a list of books which the young men and young women in high schools and especially the Barringer high school, Newark, N. J., have found attractive." (Price of both 50 cents.)

HARRIET A. WOOD.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

The second term of the school began on January 5, 1914, and closed for the Easter vacation of three days, April 9.

Mrs Edna Lyman Scott gave her course of instruction in Children's work during the week of March 16 to 21 and also gave a recital of selected stories on March 19 according to the plan for her work this year.

On April 1, Mrs Max Franklyn Howland of Boston, formerly Anne Wallace, the founder of the Library school, gave a lecture to the class on "The ideals which constitute the foundation of sound library work." After this address which occupied an hour, Mrs Howland talked informally to the class for an hour giving them a valuable insight into the difficulties of pioneer library work. Both talks were inspirational in their effect on her listeners. It was an important occasion in the history of the school.

The faculty of the library school entertained at a reception in honor of Mrs Howland. This occasion served to bring together a notable group of Atlanta people. The invitations were confined to the men and women who had rendered service to the library cause in the city and state.

Mr Darwin Jones, who was a trustee of the Young Men's Library Association library at the time of its organization in 1866, was present to pay his respects to Mrs Howland. The company included men distinguished in the professions and in business who had served the library at various times during the past 45 years. It was a source of pleasure to the guests, who numbered over a hundred, to have Mrs Howland again in Atlanta and each one took occasion to express some appreciation of her efforts for the library that had ended in so great a success.

Master Wallace Howland attracted most interest at this entertainment in honor of his mother.

DELIA FOREACRE SNEED, Principal.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

Training school for children's librarians

During the last month the following lecturers have addressed the training school:

Charles E. Rush, librarian of the Public library, St. Joseph, Mo., gave two lectures before the school on April 8. His subjects were Prominent illustrators of children's books and Effective library advertising.

Mrs L. L. Beeken, who was Kate Keith, class of 1912, died in Pittsburgh on March 26, after an illness of nearly six months.

University of Illinois

At the close of the month of field work, the seniors returned to the University, in place of meeting the juniors for the week's visit to St. Louis. The presence of a number of cases of scarlet fever on the campus made it advisable to postpone the spring trip until the latter part of March, to avoid any possibility of complications. Accordingly the visit of the School to St. Louis and Springfield occurred between March 23 and 28, the party numbering 34 students and being under the direction of the Assistant-director and Miss Jutton. The librarian of the St. Louis public library and the members of his staff spared no effort to make the week a profitable and enjoyable one, and a similar appreciation is due the hospitality of the other library people of St. Louis and Springfield. In the latter place, the members of the party visited with especial interest the Illinois Library extension commission in its new quarters at the State house, and the newly established Bureau of legislative reference.

The courses given by visiting lecturers have been continued as follows: April 2 and 3 two lectures by Miss Mary Eileen Ahern, the first being entitled "The fifth kingdom and the keeper of its treasures," and the second "The business of being a librarian." Miss Ahern's talks are always welcomed eagerly by library school students, and these have been no exception to the rule.

On April 7, Miss May Massee, editor of the A. L. A. *Book-list*, talked for an

hour most entertainingly on her work in connection with the *Book-list*.

On April 8, Miss Harriet Howe, Illinois '02, brought greetings from the Western Reserve school. On account of her former connection with Illinois as student and instructor, Miss Howe was received with a particular interest. She gave an hour's talk on some of the special phases of library training as carried on at Western Reserve.

At the February meeting of the Library club, Mr T. H. Guild, of the department of English, read from an original play not yet published; at the March meeting, Miss Florence R. Curtis of the Library School faculty, gave an interesting evening of French Canadian verse, reading chiefly from Drummond's collections.

Edna L. Goss, B. L. S., '02, has resigned from the University of California library and has succeeded Miss Sears as head cataloger at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Helen V. Calhoun, B. L. S., '05, was married to Gentry Cash on February 14.

Sabra L. Nason, 1905-06, 1906-07, is librarian of the Umatilla County library at Pendleton, Oregon.

Mary E. Goff, B. L. S., '11, has been transferred from the position of head cataloger to that of reference librarian in the University of Texas, Austin.

Ann S. Pinkum, B. L. S., '05, was married on March 26 to Mr Robert Jacobs of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Frances Marjorie Kilburn, '13-14, has withdrawn from the library school.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Assistant director.

New York public library

Since the last report junior lectures have been as follows:

Italian literature from d'Azeglio to d'Annunzio, by Th  ophile E. Comba.

The circulation department, by Jessie Welles of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Branch library buildings, by Benjamin Adams of the New York public library.

Senior lectures, as follows, (Advanced reference and cataloging, and School and college library courses.):

College cataloging, two lectures, by Harriet B. Prescott, of Columbia university library.

The work of the archivist, by Victor H. Paltsits, of the New York public library.

Administration course:

City library extension, by Jessie Welles. State library extension, by Sarah B. Askew of the New Jersey library commission.

Recent and very welcome visitors to the school have been Miss Alice Tyler and W. H. Brett, of Cleveland, and Miss Ida M. Mendenhall on her return from her lecture course in Riverside, Cal.

The juniors and several seniors and members of the library staff attended the tea given to Miss Welles and Mr Comba after the lecture of the former. Mr. Comba read very acceptably scenes from a translation of the play, *Una partita a scacchi*, (A game of chess) by Giuseppe Giacosa.

On April 7, the Drexel institute library school, accompanied by Miss Bacon, were welcome visitors to the school-room, meeting the New York school's students afterward, with some of the faculty, at dinner at the Port Arthur restaurant in Chinatown. The company thus dining together numbered 45.

The school recently received a valuable and interesting gift from Mr Andrew Keogh, of the Yale university library, in the shape of a small Babylonian tablet with cuneiform writing.

Instead of taking the usual vacation the last week in March, the juniors voted to continue their work and to attend the A. L. A. conference in May. They were, however, excused from practice, during what would have been vacation week, and as the third term practice occupies all day on Mondays and Tuesdays, this arrangement secured for them four successive days of freedom.

Twenty-seven juniors have joined the American library association. The school headquarters at Washington will be the Hotel Gordon, and at least two instructors will remain with the student party. It is hoped that graduates as well as seniors may be of the company, which expects to occupy an entire car on the southward journey. Miss M. A. Newberry, president of the Alumni association, and F. B. Spaulding, of the seniors, are arranging for a school reunion in Washington in the form of a luncheon.

The practice of the spring term has been assigned in 18 branches, six rooms of the reference department, the circulation offices and traveling libraries division, and in three local high school libraries.

Recent appointments and promotions have been as follows:

Maude Durlin (jun., 1913), first assistant in cataloging department, Cleveland public library.

Gertrude Olmsted (sen., 1913), assistant, Muhlenberg branch.

S. Marie Hardy (sen., 1914), librarian, East Orange high school library.

Mabel L. Abbott (sen., 1914), teacher's assistant, Library school.

MARY W. PLUMMER,
Principal.

New York state library

The annual library visit took place March 31-Apr. 7. As usual in even years a number of leading libraries in New England were visited. In addition to the scheduled visits many excellent libraries omitted from the regular itinerary because of lack of time were visited in unoccupied hours by small parties of students. Mr and Mrs Robert K. Shaw gave a delightful reception to the party in Worcester, Mass. Teas were given by the library staffs of the Essex institute and Brown university. Mr Gardner M. Jones of the Salem public library took the party in a special car to visit the new South branch of his library.

The regularly scheduled visits were: Springfield City library association; Worcester Free public library; Clark University library; Worcester County law library; American antiquarian society; Boston public library; Massachusetts state library; Boston Book Co.; Harvard University library; Riverside Press; Brookline public library; Medford public library; Salem public library; Providence public library; Providence Athenaeum; Brown University library; Annmary Brown memorial.

Charles E. Rush, '08, spoke to the school on "Prominent illustrators of children's books," Saturday, Apr. 11.

The period of practice work in outside libraries lasted from March 2 to March 28. Practically the same libraries as last year offered facilities for this work. Six of the students under the direction of Miss Webster, library organizer, organized or reorganized libraries at Potsdam, Seneca Falls, Russell, Canandaigua and Houghton seminary.

A number of the students from both classes are planning to attend the A. L. A. conference in Washington. Regular school exercises will not be suspended as in 1912 and 1913 but arrangements will be made by which those who are able to do so may attend the conference with the least possible loss of regular school work.

Elizabeth Lowry, '14, who was obliged to leave the school early in the year on account of ill health, has definitely discontinued her school work and returned to her home in Oakland, Cal.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

The spring library visiting trip this year covered a circuit of New Jersey and Pennsylvania libraries. Starting on Saturday, March 28, we visited Princeton University library, Public library at Trenton and the State library, where Miss Askew told the class about the work of the New Jersey commission. In Philadelphia, visits were made to the main library, the library for the blind, the municipal reference library, the Spring Garden branch of the Philadelphia free library, the Philadelphia Library Company, and the libraries of the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel institute, and Girard college. At the latter place we were taken about by the Vice-president who was formerly of Pratt institute. We also visited Leary's Book Store where each of the class executed a book-buying commission for the library. On Wednesday, we went up to Harrisburg where we inspected the beautiful new building of the public library and spent the rest of the afternoon and the evening in the State library and the commission office. Two rather unusual

features here were a demonstration of the work of the photostat and a display of the State library's lantern slides of flowers and birds. The work of the commission as explained by Mr Bliss and Miss MacDonald seemed very real when we were surrounded by traveling library cases and other evidences of commission work.

From Harrisburg we went up to Wilkes-Barré where the Osterhout library, the Wyoming Historical library, and the lace mills afforded a varied entertainment. On Friday a beautiful trolley trip was made from Wilkes-Barré to Hazleton where Miss Willigerod, of the class of 1911, is librarian. The morning there was succeeded by an afternoon at the Scranton public library. The week ended by a return trip over the Pocono Mountains and through the Delaware Water Gap.

The trip yielded not only unusually good professional experience, but no class was ever received with more open-hearted hospitality. We were specially entertained by the staff of Princeton University library, Public library of Harrisburg, State library commission, by the library at Hazleton, the Osterhout library at Wilkes-Barré, Public library at Scranton, State library in Trenton, Drexel institute, and at the home of Vice-president and Mrs Jameson of Girard college.

So much impressed was the class by the hospitality received on the trip, that on learning that the Drexel Institute library school was to visit us on Tuesday, April 7, they asked to be allowed to give them a luncheon, which was served in the new Women's club-house.

The last visiting lecturer of the winter term was Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Girls' high-school, who spoke on the opportunity of the high school librarian.

A lantern slide lecture on the Cleveland public library was given by Mr Brett on Monday afternoon, April 6.

The result of the examination given by the Board of Education for high school librarians has recently been printed. It is gratifying to note that

the first two names on the list are graduates of this school.

Grace B. McCartney, '11, who has been in the order department of Columbia university for two years, has been made assistant librarian in the order department of the Rochester (N. Y.) public library.

Helen E. Crippen, '12, of the Denver public library staff, has accepted a position in the library of Wells college, Aurora, N. Y.

Margaret Hickman, '13, who assumed the librarianship of the public library in her home at Red Wing, Minnesota, on graduation, has been appointed librarian of the Public library at Eveleth, Minn.

Louise Richardson, '13, has been made children's librarian of the Public library at Hibbing, Minn.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE.

Simmons college

The visiting lecturers for April have been Mr Frank P. Hill, who spoke on "The organization of a large library system, as exemplified by the Brooklyn public library," and Mrs Cronan, whose subject was "Story-telling."

April 23, a visit was made to the Perkins institution for the blind, and on April 25, a whole day was spent in the libraries of Providence, R. I., including the Public library, the State library, the Providence Athenaeum, the John Hay memorial library, and the John Carter Brown and Annmary Brown libraries.

The Spring vacation lasted from March 27 to April 8. The school regretted that the vacation prevented them from receiving the New York State library school during their Boston visit, but one of the student committees spent a short time at the college on April 2.

Minnie E. Burke, '11, has accepted a position in the library of the Department of agriculture.

Rachel Flint, special student '06-07, was recently married to Dr Arthur F. Wheat of Manchester N. H.

Linn Jones, special student, '11-12, has resigned her position in the Sioux City public library to become children's librarian at the Oak Park (Ill.) public library.

Marian Jones, '08, recently resigned from the New York public library staff to live with her family in Denver, Colorado.

Isabel S. Monro, '07, has joined the cataloging staff of the New York public library.

Adrienne F. Muzzy, '07-08, has been made branch librarian of the Yorkville branch of the New York public library.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY.

Western Reserve university

The outside lecturers for the month in the Library and community welfare course have been: Dr E. A. Peterson, director of Physical education in the Cleveland public schools, "Recreation as community necessity"; Professor James E. Cutler, professor of sociology at Adelbert college, "Social service and allied professions"; Anna L. Morse, librarian of the Reuben McMillan free library of Youngstown, "The library's relation to social service training." Other lecturers were Mrs Julia S. Harron, editor for the Cleveland public library, on "Translations of foreign literature," and Miss Virginia Graeff of the Cleveland art school, on "The educational value of pictures in libraries and schools."

The course in Bookbinding is now being given by Miss Stiles, supervisor of binding in the Cleveland public library. It includes the study of the mechanical make-up of books, practical work in mending and binding, and visits to library and commercial binderies.

Harriet E. Howe, head instructor, has been appointed director of the Iowa summer library school at the State university of Iowa for the session of 1914. Wednesday noon, March 18, the faculty were the guests of the class at a most enjoyable class "spread." The school was closed for the Easter vacation, April 8-15.

Ruth M. Tiffany, '12, resigned her position of assistant in the Western Reserve historical society library and was married March 11, to William Bainum.

ALICE S. TYLER, Director.

California state library

The announcement of the California state library school for 1914-15, preceded by a report on the work that has been done heretofore, shows a good strong course in library economy in all its phases, and a faculty of such training and experience as guarantees effective work in such a school. In addition to library economy, a course in the Spanish language has been added, as well as one

on California. This latter is intended to be a study of the history and literature, the geographic, social and economic conditions of the state of California. There will also be a brief course given on the history of art for library assistants. In addition to the regular staff, outside lecturers of note will be provided for.

The announcement is made that in the Fall of 1915 the entrance standards will be raised, requiring a diploma from university or college for admission to the school. Full particulars may be had on application to the State library.

Columbia university

A course in library economy will be given at the summer session at Columbia university, New York City, July 6-August 14. Miss Helen Rex Kelly will be the instructor in charge and work will be offered by instructors prominent in their various departments. For a complete statement of courses and all particulars, write to the Secretary of the University, New York city.

University of Minnesota

A summer school for library training will be held at the State university in Minneapolis under the direction of the Minnesota public library commission, June 15-July 24. Miss Baldwin, secretary of the Minnesota public library commission, and others connected with the Commission, will be the instructors. Application for admission and for further information should be made before June 1 to Clara F. Baldwin, director, Minnesota public library commission, St. Paul.

University of Missouri

A summer library school will be held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, June 15-July 25. Through the help of Missouri library commission and the St. Louis public library a corps of instructors of ability will be secured. Miss Wales of the commission, Miss Powers and Miss Quigley of St. Louis public library, Miss Van Buren and Mr Severance and Mr Burrowes of the university will constitute the faculty. Full information will be sent on request.

University of Tennessee

A course in library methods for teacher-librarians will be given at the University of Tennessee June 23-July 31. Information regarding it may be obtained from Miss Lucy E. Fay, librarian of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania free library commission will hold a summer school for library workers at State college, June 9 to August 7, 1914. Tuition will be free to all residents of the state, but others will be expected to pay a fee of \$20. The school is open only to those holding library positions, and the course of study will include the various library processes necessary to the development of a first-class library. There will be a special library course for teachers, dealing with the use of the library tools, organization of the school library, training in bibliography, and forms of work with children. The various members of the staff of the Free library commission will give the instruction, assisted by librarians from libraries throughout the state. Special lecturers will be Mrs H. L. Elmendorff, of Buffalo public library, Arthur L. Bailey, Free library of Wilmington. Full information will be given on application to the Free library commission of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.

A list of gifts and bequests to American libraries in 1913 shows the amount of financial assistance to have been \$4,428,241; number of volumes as gifts, 168,655; sites, 12; buildings, 10; miscellaneous, 46. Worthy of special mention in this connection is the bequest of \$10,000 from the late Reuben Gold Thwaites, to the Wisconsin historical society.

For Sale—A charging desk, 15 ft. by 2 ft. 3 in. A steel stack having 10 cases of 4 sections, 8 shelves to a section. For full particulars address New Rochelle public library, New Rochelle, N. Y.

Notes from Foreign Sources

Italy

The Società per le Bibliotechine delle Scuole Elementari del Comune di Firenze (Society for small libraries of the Elementary schools of Florence) has completed its sixth year, during which it has formed 35 new libraries. It had at the close of the year, 157 libraries and a total of 5,000 volumes, each volume being issued on an average 10 times a year with possible reading not only by the child drawing it, but by the child's family. A catalog of the libraries has been printed. The purpose of the society is to have enough libraries to place one in every classroom of every school in Florence.

Holland

A recent number of the *Maandblad voor Bibliotheekswezen*, The Hague, contains an article on "Book theft," by J. V. Dijk, with particular reference to the disappearance of books from libraries. He admits that notices of the theft of books are seen only occasionally in library periodicals, but thinks that it really takes place much oftener than it appears in print. The reluctance of librarians to pursue book thieves in the courts may encourage theft. The indication of ownership in the book itself is inadequate. The bookplate can be skillfully removed or pasted over. The ordinary stamping on the title page and on a specified page is evidently not sufficient, as books so marked are stolen and sold even in mutilated condition. And a second hand dealer in whose possession such a book is found defends himself by saying that he did not know that the page was missing. Book thieves are of two sorts, those who want a book to use, and those who want it to sell, and the latter is the larger class. Stamping across the outside edges of the leaves is recommended. It is also suggested that book theft would be much more difficult if all libraries would stamp their books on the same specified page instead of following some private formula for doing it, and make this page known, so that dealers to whom books are offered for sale could

tell at once whether they were library books.

The library of the University of Amsterdam has received three important gifts. In addition to the Sillem legacy and the transfer of the Quack library, the widow of Mr N. G. Pierson, a former minister, has bequeathed to the library his entire scientific collection and his bust for a Pierson room.

With the current year the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (royal library) at The Hague, begins the publication each month of the *Repertorium op de Nederlandsche tijdschriften*, a bibliography of contributions in periodicals, yearbooks, reports, etc., wherever these are not translated and are signed by the writers. This bibliography will include periodicals of both general and scientific scope, giving original articles as well as the chief criticisms of the preceding month. In 1910 the Koninklijke Bibliotheek began to compile on cards the bibliography of periodical literature. The *Repertorium* is a continuation and extension of this bibliography. It will be sold in book form and also on cards.

The library of the University of Groningen has an enlargement of its building in prospect.

L. A.

Library Bewares

A few "beware's" were given in a recent lecture by Dr Bowerman. Beware, he said, of the faddist, or hobby rider, who would have you buy everything published on a subject such as socialism; beware of his near kin, the propagandist, who seeks to use the machinery of the public library, expensive for the public to maintain, but cheap for his use, for the exploitation of his peculiar religious or medical theories; beware of the booster; beware of the "Greeks bearing gifts"; beware of the smooth-tongued and persuasive subscription book agent; beware of building up a well rounded collection or of owning every book that no "gentleman's library should lack"; beware of the spirit of dogmatism, narrow-mindedness and finality in your choice of books.

A Few Grains of Wheat in a Bushel of Chaff

[An apology is offered for presenting the following discussion. Those who are engaged in serious endeavor may pass it by without loss. It is given to dispose of the charge of unfairness.—Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.]

The subject under discussion is the editorial in the March number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES (p. 106), on "Civil service in Illinois libraries." A fair reading of the editorial will show how far a-field the following discussion of it is. After its publication the president of the Civil service commission of Illinois sent the following letter to the General Manager of the Library Bureau of Illinois:

March 17, 1914.

General Manager,
Library Bureau,
6 N. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

The State Civil Service Commission has for several years been a customer* of yours. In the March issue of your house organ PUBLIC LIBRARIES, an article is printed in which several falsehoods are given publicity regarding the methods of the Civil Service Commission and certain specific actions alleged to have been taken.

From circumstances surrounding the actions of the Commission, with which this article chiefly deals, it is apparent that it has been published with a malicious intent. It appears to be a deliberate attempt to misrepresent and discredit the Commission.

I do not care to go into specific denial of the statements made in this article unless I am assured of a willingness on your part to correct the misstatements and to give an unprejudiced account of the actions of the Commission in the cases which are mentioned. I shall be very much interested in learning whether you are so disposed.

Please address me at my Chicago office, Room 1542, 608 So. Dearborn St.

Yours respectfully,

STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

By J. H. Burdett, President.

To which the following replies were sent:

March 19, 1914.

James H. Burdette, President,
State Civil Service Commission,
1542, 608 South Dearborn Street, Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the sev-

*A meritorious civil service ideal.—Editor.

enteenth instant regarding an article in the magazine **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**. In the first place I want to state that this is not a house organ of Library Bureau, but is a technical library magazine which we publish in the same manner that we have published a great many library books, pamphlets, etc.

We do not in any way influence its actions as in order to fulfill its purpose it must be free from any commercial influence.

While I have read the article to which you refer I am not familiar with the details and I am therefore turning your communication over to the editor to answer in person. I am sure that you will find that **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** is not swayed by any animus in the matter and will welcome anything that you have to say regarding it.

Yours very truly,

LIBRARY BUREAU,
G. B. Burrage,
General Manager.

March 19, 1914.

Mr. James H. Burdett,
Room 1542, 608 S. Dearborn St.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 17th to the Manager of the Library Bureau has been laid on my desk.

I must first correct the impression you have that **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** is a house organ of the Library Bureau. This is entirely a mistake. **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** has never, in any sense of the word, been used as a house organ for Library Bureau. Its aim is to be a high class professional periodical. How well this aim has been maintained we will leave to the officers of the American Library Association, of the State Library Association, any association of librarians in the country, or individual librarians, to decide.

Now as to the matter which has brought about the correspondence. I should be very sorry indeed if anything even remotely entitled to be called "a falsehood," was included in the editorial comment on "Civil service as applied to libraries in Illinois."

PUBLIC LIBRARIES has been outspoken against including the library service of the state under civil service from the first, not with "malicious intent," but because the consensus of opinion of the body of librarians, particularly those whose standing and experience make their conclusions, given after much careful and impartial investigation, worthy of consideration, shows the position to be well taken.

I beg to assure you that there was no attempt to misrepresent or discredit the Commission, but to show by actual conditions that civil service applied to libraries is a misfit.

As to a presentation of your views in the matter, I shall be very glad indeed to give you any space you may want, to present any

argument touching the matter which you may desire.

The article was written after communicating with representatives of the Commission and after reading the accounts of the matter in the Springfield papers. All of these that came to my notice were seemingly prejudiced against the State Library, and no one of them seemed to have any idea of betterment of the service, but only to sustain the individual in the claim for re-instatement.

My opposition to civil service in libraries was expressed publicly and definitely to those who secured the State civil service amendments some few years ago. There is absolutely nothing personal in it to the Commission, who, judging by those I know, are honest in their belief in the value of civil service. Mr Lower, Mr Fleming, Mr Moulton and others will tell you of discussions which we have had on these subjects for a good many years before the present situation at Springfield arose.

Yours very truly,

M. E. AHERN.

Considerable material bearing on civil service, consisting of papers which have been read at A. L. A. meetings, was also sent to President Burdett.

Mr Burdett then sent the following letter for publication:

Editor **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**:

In an article in your March issue statements are made about civil service in the Illinois State Library which seem to me so unfair to the civil service commission, that I feel obliged to ask permission to state correctly the facts which were there distorted in an endeavor to make them support a criticism of the application of civil service to libraries.

First I will refer to the last part of your article where there was the most serious distortion. You state (and it is quite true) that until recently the state library had been conducted without any pretense of up-to-date library methods and that when it was decided by the secretary of state to classify and catalog the books only one employe in the office was found to have had library training.

You suggest (and this is not true) that the presence of the incompetent employes was due to civil service¹ and leave the reader with the impression that you believe these incompetents form an indictment of civil service methods and that without a civil service law conditions would have been better. There is no ground whatever for these innuendoes.

The truth is there was only one employe in the state library for whom the civil service commission was responsible, and she was the

¹ Nowhere implied nor suggested.

one competent person you referred to. The other employees were not certified by the commission but were appointed before the enactment of the civil service law by the then secretary of state whose free choice was not restrained. Their incompetency is not an indictment of civil service methods, but exactly the reverse. It is proof of the necessity of civil service methods in a service where political influence will frequently prevail to induce the appointment of incompetents, unless there is a law to prevent.

Judson T. Jennings in his paper on Civil Service as affecting libraries, read before the American Library Association at Pasadena, May 20, 1911, says:—"It (civil service) does, in the majority of cases, eliminate politics. This is the main purpose of civil service, and the strongest argument in its favor. If your library is under political control and *there is no other way out*¹ by all means take the civil service route, as it is undoubtedly better than the political road."

All the employees in the library except the one certified person whose competency you admit, were placed in the civil service by a clause in the law called the "blanket clause" which is at variance with civil service principles and was intended to tie the hands of the civil service commission and allow all in the service at the time the act took effect to remain without original entrance examination. To remove them it was necessary for the department head to file charges of misconduct and incompetency and prove his charges in a hearing before the commission. This hearing is required by law as a check against the removal of competent persons for political reasons.

You say that in order to have a trained cataloger it was necessary to dismiss an attendant (Mrs Estelle Baird); that this was done, and that the civil service commission "brought Secretary Woods to trial to make him prove his charge of incompetency against the attendant."

The truth is (and you might easily have learned this) that the civil service law provides an easy method to get rid of an incompetent employe and replace her with a competent one, where this object is sought in good faith. Mr Woods did not follow this method; neither did he seek to accomplish this object in good faith. Without filing charges against Mrs Baird he tried to get her to resign² in order to replace her, not with the "trained cataloger" of your de-

scription, but with a person¹ whose knowledge and experience in library methods were certainly no greater than Mrs Baird's. Mrs Baird refused to resign. He barred her from the office, and replaced her with the untrained and inexperienced person² referred to. The method taken to get rid of Mrs Baird was illegal; and we must enforce all features of the law, even the "blanket clause." We cannot amend a clause at will because we consider it is not good civil service. The Commission therefore directed that Mrs Baird be restored to her position. This order was not obeyed but charges were thereupon filed by the secretary of state alleging incompetency. The charges were filed nearly a month after she was barred from the library.

A hearing was had, and the finding was that because she had been discharged by the secretary in flagrant violation of the letter of the law, she should be reinstated with back pay, but that to determine her competency and that of every other employe in the library not certified there by the commission they all should be required to pass the examination conducted March 21 by Henry Legler, head of the Chicago library, and Prof Windsor, director of the University of Illinois library.³

This finding certainly meant an improvement in the efficiency of the office, unless the examination was no good; so in the article I am answering you continue the distortion of facts by giving an untruthful description of the examination. It is described⁴ as "six or a dozen questions," and the statement is made that "natural ability, appearance, experience and personality" cannot be found out by it.

Criticism of this examination is only indirectly criticism of the civil service commission. It is first a criticism of Henry Legler, head of the Chicago public library, and Prof P. L. Windsor, director of the University of Illinois library. We did not tell them what the examination should consist of; they told us and they prepared it

¹ The question of competency to judge of fitness in this case is an open one.

² Mr Woods also says that no one was appointed to fill the vacated place (sixth assistant). The Civil Service Commission had no one to certify and two appointments were made temporarily "in the library service."

³ The dismissed assistant referred to did not present herself for examination. At this time, April 24, the results of the examination are not known.

⁴ The examination was six weeks off when the editorial in question was written. It was in nowise a description of anything, but a statement of a well established fact.

¹ The italics are the editor's.

² Mr Woods followed the suggestion of a librarian who was called in for consultation in October, that he ask incompetent attendants to resign before he resorted to plain dismissal.

and will mark the papers. Perhaps they are not competent, but surely it would be simple justice to inform your readers what the examination really was and just what you criticize in it, instead of stating it is "six or a dozen" questions, which is a slurring untruth¹ hardly excusable in a serious professional publication. The state civil service commission does not make it a rule to give out examination questions, but we are sending you a set of those used in the examination of March 21, so that if you are disposed to make a fair criticism of the examination of March 21, you have the opportunity to do so.²

The statement that experience is not found out in the examination is another untruth, and if personal qualifications were not gone into particularly, that is not the fault of civil service methods but of the judgment of the examiners.³ We can and in many cases do consider personal qualifications, in oral examinations conducted by experts. We could have done so in this case had the examiners recommended it.

Now I revert to the first part of your article where you deplore the necessity of graduates of the state university library school being compelled to take a civil service examination before being certified to a classified position. You say such graduate must sit for an examination before the civil service commission to find out if the diploma tells the truth. Such a diploma is not questioned in any library outside of Illinois, but within the borders there is a fear in the civil service commission lest "a graduate may have been favored in being graduated or become stale since the degree was conferred."

The words which you attribute to the civil service commission were never uttered by a member or representative of this commission. They must have originated in the brain of a person who knows nothing whatever of the theory or practice of civil service.⁴ University library graduates are required to take civil service examinations because it is the theory and requirement of the law that

all citizens who are competent and who seek state employment shall compete¹ in practical tests of their ability and those proved by that test to be the most competent shall be certified first. A diploma from the university certainly counts strongly for every graduate who takes the test which Prof Windsor for years has conducted.²

In conclusion let me echo your last paragraph: "Zeal without knowledge, in 'reformers' is as often as not, as bad as knowledge without zeal." And let me say I have seldom seen less knowledge or more misdirected zeal displayed than in your criticism of civil service.

You say you have always been opposed to civil service in libraries, and I say that your desire to find arguments to support your opposition has blinded you to plain facts in the state library service.

No one at all familiar with politics will deny that pull and not merit will usually control appointments in the public service where the law does not rigidly impose a merit system. If the state civil service law is observed in the state library there will be a competent staff there chosen for ability alone, and were it not for the civil service law this result, which I believe you warmly desire, would not soon be achieved.³

Yours respectfully,

JAS. H. BURDETT,
President.

STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,
Chicago, Illinois.
March 30, 1914.

Answer was made to this as follows:

April 10, 1914.

President James H. Burdett,
State Civil Service Commission,
1542, 608 South Dearborn Street,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of recent date with its enclosure which you asked to have printed in PUBLIC LIBRARIES. I have taken time to consider carefully this matter so as to help the situation, regardless of personal bias. I discussed the subject with and laid all the correspondence before a well known gentleman, prominent in civil service endeavor

¹ But they don't do it. Teachers in the university, normal schools and other institutions do not.

² Rather hard on those who have not been students under Mr Windsor. Why not let his graduates have it in the first place?

³ The staff at present, with one exception, in the Illinois library service, have all been appointed solely on merit and not because of Civil Service law. The Civil Service commission has had no one to certify up to date.

¹ The statement referred to reads:

"Natural ability, appearance, personality, and experience cannot be found out by six or by a dozen questions under civil service rules, and yet they are prime requisites in library service."

² The examination is not unlike the ordinary examination given to librarians, fair and comprehensive as to education but in no way showing the personality of the applicant, because it can't be done.

³ Examiners are not supposed to know who is being examined.

⁴ They were said to the editor by one in the Civil Service office who said he represented the Commission.

throughout the country, and I beg to say to you that he agreed with me that neither the cause of civil service nor library conditions in Illinois under civil service would be benefited by printing your communication and he advised against publishing it.

When I wrote you before, I told you as courteously as I knew how and in all sincerity, that I should be glad to give space to any argument touching the matter which you might wish to offer. I think the letter you have written can hardly be called an argument in favor of civil service. It is a personal attack on my veracity. I do not believe the cause of civil service, the standing of the State Civil Service Commission, nor its president, would be advanced by its publication.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES is maintained as a professional technical journal and I am sure that its readers scattered as they are all over the world, in the leading countries of Europe, in India, Australia, Japan, South America, as well as the United States, would not be particularly interested in a controversy over the respective veracity of the president of the Illinois Civil Service Commission and the editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. If the readers were confined to Illinois the case would be different, and I should be more than glad to give it the widest publicity, but when I think of the disinterested others I am inclined to keep our disagreement away from the general public.

Answering personally your accusations I have this to say: When I was asked last November to visit the Illinois State Library to advise with the librarian as to what was needed to better the service, I went, and after carefully looking into the records and conditions of the work, I advised the dismissal of the incompetents whom I found there. I have since kept in very close touch with all that has been done, and in stating the case to the Illinois librarians, through PUBLIC LIBRARIES, I tried to state fairly the conditions as I believed them to be. As I told you in my former letter, there were no falsehoods used, because a falsehood means an intentional deceit, nor was there "distortion" nor any "innuendoes" nor personal criticism of Mr Legler nor Mr Windsor, nor anybody else. There was no "slurring untruth" anywhere.

As for the words you say were never uttered by a member of the Commission, I beg to say that they came to me in a telephone conversation with one who said he represented the Commission when I asked to be connected with some one in the office of the Civil Service Commission who could give me the information I was seeking.

In conclusion, I will say that the tone, contents and individual statements in your letter force me to the conclusion that it would be better for the reputation of the Civil Service

Commission and the library affairs of Illinois, if it were not sent broadcast. Fairness and editorial courtesy require that a rejoinder to a statement be given as wide a circulation as the original statement, but if this is done in this case, fairness also requires that the whole correspondence be used, and that the rejoinder be subjected to editorial comment to refute the error it contains. Neither the first letter which went to the General Manager of the Library Bureau, nor your letter in duplicate to him and to me, adds anything of vital interest to the merits of the civil service touching libraries in Illinois, and that is the major topic, not personalities.

Yours very truly,

M. E. AHERN.

In reply to this President Burdett stated among other choice things:

In your publication you have unjustly and untruthfully criticised the State Civil Service Commission and you now refuse to publish our reply. . . .

Since President Burdett wishes the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES and those interested, to know what a really fine brand of Civil Service he furnishes, the statement is given space, not because it offers any reason for the inclusion of a *part* of the educational affairs of the state under his jurisdiction, but simply to show how weak a thing Civil Service is when administered in such a spirit.

With truth, fairness, and kindness throughout an entertaining narrative, and if the characters are forceful and strong there will be no occasion for adverse criticism. What we wish to reject are those luke warm books so weak in their portrayal of good and so equally weak in their portrayal of wrong that they leave no impressions behind them; also those improbable stories sometimes thrilling, sometimes sentimental, and the vicious tales of criminal adventure and excitement which have no place whatsoever. For the misinterpretations of life acquired through inferior juvenile reading hinder in varying degree the development which we seek, while on the other hand it is difficult to measure the influence for good which early reading may have in imparting to the child standards and ideals which will result in better citizenship.

News from the Field

East

Elizabeth L. Davis, N. Y. S. L. S., '13-'14, will go to Mount Holyoke College library in September as general assistant.

Florence I. Holmes, B. L. S., N. Y. S. L. S. '12, has been engaged to assist temporarily in the cataloging and general work of Middlebury College library.

Edna L. Gilmore, librarian of the Public library of Lewiston, Me., since 1906, has resigned her position to become librarian of the Maine historical society at Portland.

The annual report of the Public library of Hudson, Mass., records a circulation of 42,028 v., with 10,630 v. on the shelves, of which only 434 were new books added during the year.

The annual report of the Public library of Fitchburg, Mass., records a circulation of 78,437 v., with 55,688 v. in the library, 69.6 per cent fiction. Borrowers' circulation, 5,322.

Clara A. Jones, who resigned her position as librarian of the Warwick (Mass.) free library after 33 years of service, will continue as trustee and as secretary and treasurer of the board. During her librarianship the library has grown from 1,700 to 5,800 volumes. Warwick is one of the banner towns of the state in regard to circulation which last year was 9.5 per head of the population. Circulation 4,531, population (1910) 477. The people of Warwick showed their appreciation of her many years of faithful service by the gift of \$75 in gold from 60 contributors.

The report of the Public library, New Bedford, Mass., for 1913 contains four interesting reproductions of works of art owned by the library. A notable painting of the Canadian Selkirks by Bierstadt; the Whaleman statue, by Bela Pratt, which stands in the library grounds; "The black sheep," by Francis D. Millet, who was to have put in the mural decorations of our building; and "Une Epave," by Clement N. Swift.

There have been various loan exhibitions of paintings through the year which have been of interest and attracted a good deal of attention from the art students, and the people of the city. These were obtained through the co-operation of the American federation of arts.

A municipal reference department has been inaugurated which has given good service to the city officials.

A good work is being done with the foreign books, especially French, Portuguese, Yiddish and Armenian. Lately large additions have been made to our Greek and Polish collections.

Lectures have been arranged for the season of 1913-1914 so that a course of over 20 has been provided. These lectures, during the past year, have been attended by audiences to the full capacity of the lecture room, and on moving the lectures to a larger auditorium, an average attendance of about 700 has resulted.

The usual work has been carried on with satisfactory results in the different departments of the library, and the circulation has been greater than ever before. During the last two years the average increase in circulation each year has been about 25,000. Great freedom in the use of books, both by residents and non-residents has been allowed, and there is probably the minimum of restrictions.

Central Atlantic

E. L. Pearson, who for a number of years has written "The Librarian" column in the *Boston Transcript*, has joined the staff of *The Nation*, New York City.

The annual report of the Public library of Englewood, N. J., records the number of volumes 14,021, circulation, 31,053. No record is kept of reference use. A reading room has been opened at the Lincoln school.

Willard P. Lewis, B. L. S., N. Y. S. L. S. '13, and Harriet E. Stillman of Watertown, N. Y., were married on April 9. Mr Lewis, who is at present

librarian of the Albany Y. M. C. A., will go to Waco, Tex., on Sept. 1, as librarian of Baylor University library.

The Public library of the District of Columbia is preparing an analytical catalog of the Columbia historical society records. The Library of Congress is printing the cards and sets may be purchased by those having sets of the Columbia historical society records.

Minna E. Sears has been appointed first-assistant in the Cataloging division of the Reference department of the New York public library. Miss Sears is a graduate of Purdue university, B. S. and M. S., Illinois library school, B. L. S. She was assistant cataloger, University of Illinois, 1901-3; head cataloger, Bryn Mawr college, 1903-7; traveled and was engaged in bibliographical work abroad, 1907-8; head cataloger, University of Minnesota, 1909-14.

Robert A. Campbell has been appointed librarian of the Municipal reference branch of the New York public library. This branch has been recently placed under the management of the Public library by the Board of estimate and apportionment, and has been allotted quarters in the new Municipal building. Mr Campbell graduated from the University of Wisconsin, A. B., 1906, and has had considerable experience in various localities in municipal and legislative reference work. He was legislative reference librarian in California, 1910-11, and secretary of the Wisconsin state board of public affairs 1911-1914.

On April 6, the New York public library opened a station in the General library of Columbia university.

This station will be primarily for the circulation of books to the faculty and students of the university and will be open every week day. Three thousand books, in charge of an experienced librarian, will form the initial collection, which will be changed or increased as occasion demands.

The station may borrow books from all the other branches of the Circulation

department, through which about 80,000 titles are available. An author catalog of the books on the shelves will be kept at the station, and printed lists will facilitate the borrowing of books from other branches.

Central

Arabella Woods, Des Moines, Ia., has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Chariton, Ia., to succeed Katherine Terrill, who has joined the staff of the Burlington library.

Charles E. Graves, N. Y. S. L. S., '13, has been appointed exchange assistant at the University of Illinois library.

Vilhelm Slomann, N. Y. S. L. S., '14, has gone to the John Crerar library, Chicago, as temporary assistant. He expects to finish his library school course in absentia.

The Public library of Gary, Ind., has just finished the first five years of service with the following record: book circulation, 544,637 volumes; readers, 188,304; pictures loaned, 8,373; club room use, 2,468. There are three branch libraries in addition to the central building in operation.

The annual report of the Public library of Clinton, Ia., records a registration of 9,447, of which 302 was gained last year. Circulation, 75,726, much of which was through the public schools and a number of stations in the factories, fire houses, etc. The duplicate pay collection at two cents a day, brought in \$23.05. The income for the year was \$8,787 and expenditures \$6,239.

The Kansas City public library has prepared address labels for use in sending and receiving books by parcel post. The outgoing label has the library address, notification to postmaster to return, stating postage required; the branch label has parcel post rates for sending up to five pounds weight. The return slip has the same information printed on it, in addition to the library address.

The plans prepared by Paul P. Cret of Philadelphia for a new main library building for Indianapolis have been adopted. The plans show an impressive structure which is to cost \$427,500, which is nearly \$75,000 less than the sum available for the building. Edwin H. Anderson, director of libraries in New York City, (a native of Indiana,) was a member of the jury of Eastern architects who made the final selection of plans.

In the assembly room of the Central public library, St. Louis, a group of children meets every two weeks to listen to a talk by the director of the School of fine arts, Washington university, St. Louis. Mr Wuerpel, the director, has been discussing a series of pictures loaned to the children's room by the Art museum. There has been an average attendance of 60 children, chiefly boys, who, bubbling over with information concerning the subjects of the talk, are learning how to look at a picture.

South

A new newspaper and civics room was opened in the Public library of Louisville, Ky., March 30.

The annual report of the Public library of Jacksonville, Fla., records number of volumes as 29,736; circulation 144,570; with 9,314 cardholders, the library being open 307 days of the year. There have been 20 class-room libraries distributed, and two sub branches were opened in the offices of improvement associations. Amount paid for books, \$5,-112; for salaries and labor, \$6,353; for binding, \$1,029.

The year ending December 21, 1913, marked the close of one of the most successful years in the history of the Public library, Lexington, Ky. More books were borrowed for home reading (the total increase in circulation over the preceding year being 2,084), and there was a larger attendance in the reading rooms.

The Newark charging system was installed and went into effect the last week in December. A change was also made

in lighting the reading rooms by raising the chandeliers to within four feet of the ceiling and using 40 Watt lamps; this has proved very satisfactory.

A free lecture course was given in February and March. There were 11 lectures on various subjects, with an average attendance of 135.

An interesting historical exhibit was arranged for the meeting of the Ohio Valley historical association. The library was also used for meetings of teachers of the city schools, medical associations, etc., and one exhibit of rare and beautiful paintings, work principally of Western artists, was given here in December.

Pacific Coast

The Seattle public library opened on January 1, 1914, its eighth branch library, located on Queen Anne Hill. The building is a gift of Andrew Carnegie, being Seattle's fifth branch from this source, and is English scholastic Gothic in design. The material used was red burlap brick, with terra cotta trimmings and slate roof.

The main floor is partly divided by glass, each side of the delivery desk, into a children's room and an adult reference room, the open-shelf room being back of the delivery desk. Also on the main floor are the story-hour room, a small work room, and the librarian's office and staff room with kitchenette. Semi-indirect lights are used throughout.

In the basement is an auditorium, with outside entrance, seating 120 people.

Adele M. Field, for a number of years a member of the library board of Seattle, Wash., has been removed by Mayor Gill, as Miss Field declined to resign. The reason given by the mayor for the removal is that there was a favoritism shown to employes brought from the East, and a discrimination shown against local applicants. It was also said that salaries in certain departments are too high, while others are too low, and that Miss Field has upheld the line of discrimination.

Canada

Three new branches were opened in the Toronto public library system in 1913. Books purchased, 24,552. Circulation among children 108,495 v. Books used in reference libraries, 190,747 v.

The J. Ross Robertson historical collection has been greatly added to, and now has 1,961 prints illustrating the historical development of Canada.

The annual report of the Public library of Ottawa, urges the need of enlarging the central library, and of two more branches located in the parts of the city now without adequate library service. There were eight large cases of books received by the library as a gift from Miss Frances Hemming. The gift contains many valuable volumes in French and English. Lists of standard books of fiction in different departments of the library will be published. They will be available not only for Ottawa but for other libraries in Canada. A steady increase in circulation of books is reported.

Foreign

Karen Seip, N. Y. S. L. S., '13-'14, has received an appointment as assistant in the Bergens Offentlige Bibliotek, Bergen, Norway.

Alfhild A. Smith, N. Y. S. L. S. '13-'14, has been notified of her appointment as assistant in the Trondhjems Folkebibliotek, Trondhjem, Norway.

Astrid Hartmann, N. Y. S. L. S. '13-'14, will return to her former position in the Trondhjems Folkebibliotek, Trondhjem, Norway, at the end of the school year.

Harald H. Lassen, N. Y. S. L. S., '11-'12, has resigned his position as assistant librarian of the Kjöbenhavns Kommunens Folkebibliotek to become librarian of the Biblioteket for Vejle By og Amt, Vejle, Denmark.

Maja Schaanning, N. Y. S. L. S., '12-'13, has resigned her position as acting

librarian of the Folkebibliotek, Trondhjem, Norway, to accept the librarianship of the Kristiansand Folkebibliotek. Miss Schaanning will begin her new work on July 1.

The annual report of the Imperial library of Japan shows the books on the shelves to number 293,197, of which 5,603 were added during the year. Number of readers in the library, 226,918. Number of books read, 999,170, an increase of 9,701 over the previous year. Of the books circulated 66,740 were European books.

The Royal library building in Berlin, which was begun in 1904, was dedicated March 22. The building cost \$3,000,000 and will house not only the Royal library of 1,500,000 volumes and the University library, 300,000 volumes, but will also be the home of the Royal academy of science. The large central reading room is a most interesting feature and perhaps the most impressive of the vast edifice. The architect was Baron von Ihne, court architect.

It is reported that a newspaper library is to be established in Paris where every newspaper and periodical published in France will be filed and cataloged. The scheme has the approval of the educational committee. There are nearly 9,000 newspapers and periodicals in France, most of them dailies, so extensive room for growth will be a requisite.

For Sale: A complete file of Harper's magazine, from the first number to date. First 44 volumes bound. Set includes many duplicates. M. F. W. 1526 Fargo Av., Chicago.

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